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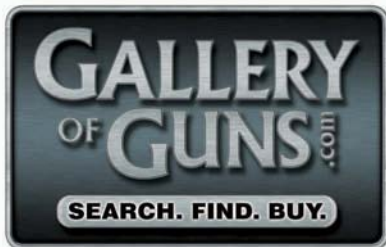
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Caliber: **22TCM**
Sights: **No Sights**
Capacity: **5+1**
BBL: **22"**

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- Checkered Hardwood Stock
- Detachable Box Magazine
- Grooved Receiver for Mounting Scope



AMERICAN
TACTICAL



GSG MP-40 Carbine

Item #: **GERGMP40**
Caliber: **22LR**
Sights: **Front: Hooded Post**
Rear: Adjustable
Capacity: **24+1**
BBL: **17.2"**

- Blue Finish
- Metal Folding Stock with Pistol Grip
- Threaded Barrel with Faux Suppressor
- Bakelite Furniture and Support Under Barrel



AMERICAN
TACTICAL



GSG STG-44 Carbine

Item #: **GERGSTG44X**
Caliber: **22LR**
Sights: **Flip-Up Iron**
Capacity: **25+1**
BBL: **17.2"**

- Blue Finish
- Wood Stock and Pistol Grip
- Rimfire "Re-creation" of the German Schmeisser STG-44



Buck Mark Sporter

Item #: **021026102**
Caliber: **22LR**
Sights: **Tru-Glo Adjustable**
Fiber Optic
Capacity: **10+1**
BBL: **18"**

- Matte Blue Finish
- Oil Finish Walnut Stock
- Detachable Magazine
- Tapered Barrel
- Integral Scope Rail



CZ 455 Lux

Item #: **02101**
Caliber: **22LR**
Sights: **Adjustable**
Capacity: **5+1**
BBL: **20.7"**

- Blue Finish
- Walnut Lux Stock
- Detachable Magazine
- Adjustable Trigger
- Interchangeable Barrel Capability



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Small Game Carbine

Item #: **H001TRMP**
Caliber: **22M**
Sights: **Front: Beaded**
Rear: Skinner Peep
Capacity: **12+1**
BBL: **20.5"**

- Blue Finish
- Walnut Stock
- Barrel Band
- Tubular Magazine
- Large Loop Lever



Blaze Series

Item #: **37314**
Caliber: **22LR**
Sights: **Adjustable**
Capacity: **25+1**
BBL: **16.25"**

- Blue Finish
- Black Synthetic Stock
- 1 - 16" RH Rifling
- Grooved Receiver to Accept Scope Mounts



Model 597

Item #: **80854**
Caliber: **22LR**
Sights: **TruGlo Fiber Optic**
Capacity: **10+1**
BBL: **20"**

- Matte Blue Finish
- Mossy Oak Pink Camo Synthetic Stock
- Twin, Tool-Steel Guide Rails
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10/22 "Take Down"

Item #: **11125**
Caliber: **22LR**
Sights: **Front: Red Fiber Optic**
Rear: Adjustable
Green Fiber Optic
Capacity: **25+1**
BBL: **16.25"**

- Polished Stainless Steel Barrel
- Black Synthetic Stock
- Threaded Barrel
- Mini-14 Style Flash Suppressor
- Scope Base Adapter
- Black Cordura Takedown Case



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Photograph Courtesy of CZ-USA

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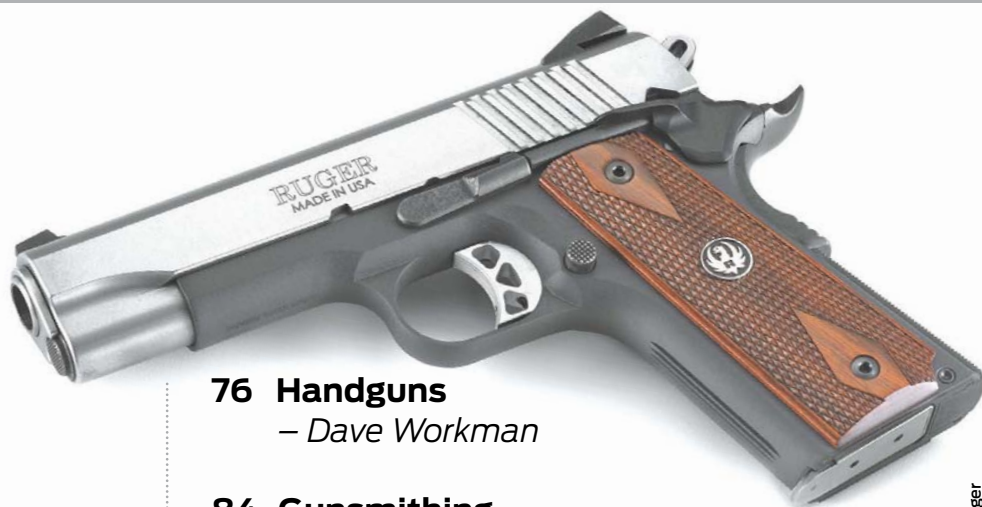
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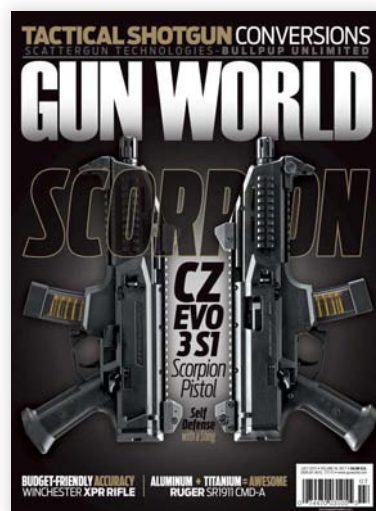


Photo by D. K. Pridgen

A Larger SHARE

By Craig Hodgkins

Like you, I'm used to paying taxes and fees on experiences I enjoy, use or need. For example, it makes some sense for me to pay toward the new construction and upkeep of our roads through the gasoline I purchase to keep my vehicle running as I travel from my home to my office and everywhere in between.

I use the freeways (too frequently), so I help with the upkeep. Fittingly, people who don't use gasoline don't share in these costs.

The same is true when I go to the beach (not frequently enough). The fees I pay to park my car go to the upkeep of the beach and—more importantly—to put a lifeguard in the tower to keep an eye on me when I wander out into the Pacific past the surf line.

Again, people who don't visit the beach don't incur these fees.

Men and women involved in the shooting sports know this sort of fee structure, and they comprise a large group. According to the most recent report from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (2006), "12.5 million people 16 years and older enjoyed hunting a variety of animals within the United States...Hunting

expenditures totaled \$22.9 billion."

Of those expenditures, the majority of the money was spent on food, lodging, transportation and equipment, but a cool \$1 billion was spent on licenses, stamps, tags and permits, as well as on membership dues and contributions.

Interestingly, these ever-increasing fees provide services and programs for far more than practitioners of hunting and fishing.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they will "distribute \$1.1 billion in revenues generated by the hunting and angling industry to state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies throughout the nation. The funds support critical fish and wildlife conservation and recreation projects that benefit all Americans."

These revenues are the direct result of excise taxes generated by the sale of sporting firearms and ammunition as well as archery & fishing equipment, boat sales and boat fuel taxes. "Since their inception," the release stated, these "have generated more than \$15 billion to conserve fish and wildlife resources and support outdoor recreation opportunities for the American public."

According to current FWS Director Dan Ashe, the value of these programs "cannot be overstated in providing opportunities for the next generation of Americans to get outdoors, experience our wild places and learn the importance of conserving our natural heritage."

Something to consider with pride the next time you go afield.

CRAIG

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The See All Open Sight atop a Remington 597.

Read All About **SEE ALL**

Text & Photos by Tim Stetzer

Shoot straight and true with the See All Open Sight, a fast, affordable optic for any firearm

Reflex sights are awesome, providing quick target acquisition and effective shot placement from up-close-and-personal to way-out-yonder without special training or futzings with scope dials. For practical purposes, a reflex sight creates a point and shoot proposition.

The reflex sight market is awash in a multitude of styles and functionalities to fit every mission and nearly every budget. Let's not forget that almost every firearm is available with the requisite accessory rails to enable quick installation of lights, sights and aiming devices.

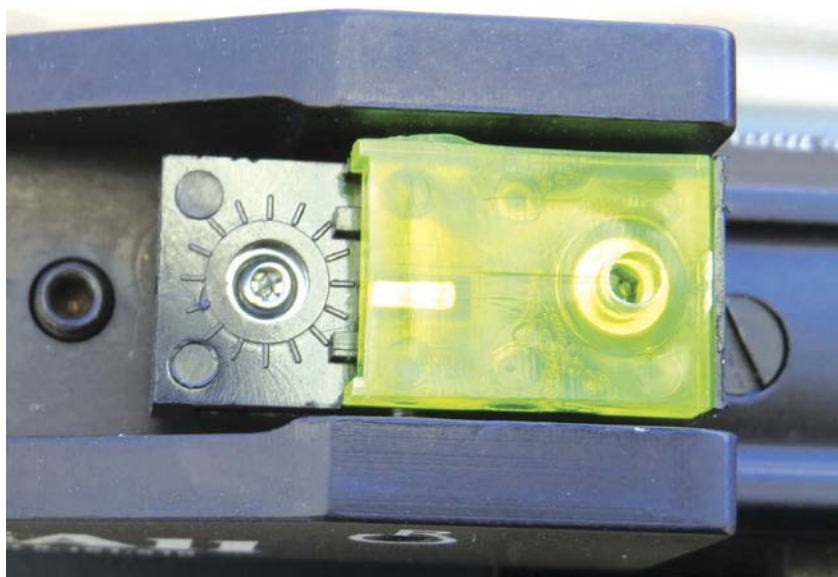
However, you often have to decide what compromises you're willing to make when it comes to size, weight, durability and battery life, and generally the answer is the more you're willing to spend, the more you get.

There are exceptions to every rule, and the See All Open Sight is one of them.

■ THE NEW PLAYER IN TOWN

Frankly, I hadn't heard of the See All Open Sight until several months ago when a friend brought it to my attention. He had been seeking a good sight for his Remington 597 .22-caliber rifle, came across the See All Open Sight during his research, and bought one on the spot.

My buddy generously allowed me to try the Remington/See All



▲ Note the elevation adjustment screw in this overhead view.



▲ Exaggerated eye relief and the See All Open Sight is still ready to deliver fire to the target.

Open sight combo at the range. I was quite intrigued, and at the 2015 SHOT Show I arranged to get a T&E (Test and Evaluation) sample unit for purely journalistic purposes.

■ SCIENTIFICALLY SO SIMPLE

The See All is a very compact and lightweight reflex-style sight that incorporates a fiber optic block that gathers ambient light to illuminate an embedded crosshair reticle for optimum performance, even in incredibly low lighting conditions.

In fact, if you can visually identify the target, then the See All Open Sight is sufficiently illuminated to do the job.

Due to its inherent optical alignment geometries, the See All Open Sight is nearly goof-proof – the shooter places the crosshair reticle on the target and squeezes the trigger. Because the crosshair stays on the target, even when the target isn't in the center of the sight picture, the unit is free from parallax distortions common to traditional riflescopes.

To aim, simply look through the sight and align the tip of the triangle on whatever it is that you wish to shoot. You basically look through the sight, drop the triangle on target and shoot. It's very easy to pick up and the manufacturer claims that the learning curve with it is practically nonexistent.

■ WHAT IT'S MADE OF

The See All Open Sight is compact at 1x1x2.2 inches and weighs only 1.8 ounces.

Despite its diminutive proportions and feathery weight, it's solidly crafted of anodized aluminum for durability as well as protecting the optical elements from the rigors of life in the field.

Because of the unit's single-lens element, the See All Open Sight is impervious to fog, snow, rain or even full submersion in water. Simply shake off any excess water or snow and carry on with what you were doing.

And although the sight is fully adjustable for windage and elevation, there isn't much you can possibly do to knock it out of alignment (unlike its aluminum-tube colleagues).

⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

CMMG MK4 K 5.56MM

Dimensions: 1 x 1 x 2.2 inches

Weight: 1.8 ounces

Adjustment: 100 inches vertically; 150 inches horizontally (at 100 yards)

MSRP: \$98.95



▲ Ready to rock with the See All Open Sight on duty.

■ INSTALL

The See All Open Sight ships in a padded box that includes a good set of instructions for use and installation, plus a convenient pair of Allen wrenches for installation and sight adjustment.

The mount incorporates a base compatible with Weaver and Picatinny rails, so it will mount on almost anything you need it to. The company has tested the product on many handguns, rifles of various calibers, shotguns, muzzleloaders and crossbows.

Eye relief isn't an issue on the See All; just slip it on the rail, position it where it's most comfortable for you, and tighten down the two locking screws to secure it in place.

■ SIGHT SHOOTING

I mounted the See All on my CMMG Mk4 K 5.56mm pistol. The sight slid easily onto the forward rail and fastened in place in about two minutes. I positioned the sight on the forward rail just ahead of the upper receiver.

When I brought the pistol up to eye level and took a good cheek weld on the buffer tube, the triangle of the See All popped right into view. I was impressed how little bulk the sight added to the pistol and the weight was negligible.

Handling was quite dynamic and I found it very fast to use on the range. I have never been comfortable shooting with both eyes open, but I made myself do so with the See All and I actually found it easy to do.

I really like the simplicity of the system. If you can see the triangle, no matter what odd angle you're at, just drop the tip on your target, fire, and you're good to go.

My 10-year old son helped me verify that the See All has a fast learning curve. He's right-handed, left eye dominant, and has been having trouble getting a good sight picture with iron sights, so I'd been wanting to see him experiment with a reflex sight.

I handed him the CMMG with the See All Open Sight on it and he

picked the sight up immediately. I'll be swapping it over to one of our .22 rifles soon and seeing how he does on the range.

The See All Open Sight is a rugged, compact, lightweight unit that's fast, easy to use and also affordable. With an MSRP of only \$98.95 via the manufacturer's website, I think it's a great deal for a high-performance sight that ought to last a lifetime. **GW**

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The long-awaited CZ-USA Scorpion EVO 3 S1 pistol is finally available to consumers.

Personal Protection **PERFECTED**

Text & Photos by Aaron Carter

CZ-USA's long awaited, semi-automatic-only Scorpion EVO 3 S1 pistol is now available to consumers seeking an innovative and powerful defensive arm.



Few firearms unveiled at the 2015 Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show elicited more of an enthusiastic response than the highly-anticipated CZ-USA Scorpion EVO 3 S1 pistol—and for good reason. The S1 is the long-awaited, civilian-legal handgun version of the select-fire Scorpion EVO 3 A1, CZ's third-generation submachine gun whose original lineage was the brainchild of Miroslav Rybar, the Skorpion vz. 61. Of course, significant changes were stipulated to ensure its legality for sale in the consumer marketplace, but despite these alterations, the end product remains quite impressive.



▲ Replacing the EVO 3 A1's selector switch on the S1 is a two-position, bilateral safety. With the tab of the safety in the downward position the gun is ready to fire.

■ SIMILAR, BUT NOT IDENTICAL

Because no new full-automatic firearms manufactured after May 19, 1986 can be legally transferred for civilian possession, the first and most significant modification to the Scorpion EVO 3 A1 was to eliminate its full-automatic and burst-mode capabilities. As such, the four-setting selector switch (safe, semi-automatic, three-round burst, and full-automatic) has been replaced on the S1 with a two-position switch, which effectively serves as a safety. It's now a semi-automatic-only handgun, and gone is the 1,150-rpm rate of fire.

Since the S1 is classified as a "pistol" by the BATFE, the A1 sub-machine gun's removable, adjustable (for length of pull), side-folding polymer buttstock is

also absent. If the buttstock were retained, the Scorpion EVO S1 with its 7.72-inch barrel would be considered a short-barreled rifle (SBR) instead of pistol, and subject to all National Firearms Act (NFA) rules/regulations.

Despite the two aforementioned (and noteworthy) changes, the CZ Scorpion EVO 3 S1 is virtually indistinguishable from its law enforcement and military A1 brethren.

The allure of the blowback-operated S1 resides in its surprisingly compact, feature-filled composition. The user is neither hampered by unwieldy dimensions nor left wanting. Concerning the former, from the compensator to the receiver cover the pistol measures a compact 16.5 inches, with a height of 8-5/8 inches and a width of 2-3/8 inches. In addition, the EVO 3 S1



only weighs in at 5 pounds, which allows for easy one- and two-handed shooting.

For increased stability, the company also offers a pistol arm brace kit that enables the user to add an aftermarket arm brace or other AR-15 pistol buffer tube accessory. Its cost is \$80, and the KAK Industry flat black-anodized 6061 T6 aluminum adaptor attaches directly to the receiver cover.

■ A WHOLE LOT OF GUN

The S1's fiber-reinforced polymer receiver consists of two halves held together by multiple screws. Once adjoined, there is an integral, 8-inch strip of Picatinny rail that, when combined with railing already atop the handguard, provides a generous 11 inches of uninterrupted rail. Moreover, both sides of the handguard have 3.75-inch lengths

of molded-in accessory rail, and there's a 5-5/8-inch-long strip along the bottom to which CZ wisely added a handstop. This handstop helps prevent the non-shooting hand from inadvertently sliding atop (or beneath) the compensator or in front of the barrel.

CZ's own low-profile steel sights are secured to the gun's top rail. The rear has four aperture sizes and is windage adjustable, while the post front sight can be adjusted to change elevation. A tool for making these adjustments is provided with the gun, and it greatly simplifies the process.

The sights are factory calibrated at a distance of 25 meters, and they can be removed easily and quickly for the addition of a red-dot or reflex-style sight. Assuredly, lights and lasers, such as the Crimson Trace Rail Master Pro, will find

their way onto the side accessory rails. Sandwiched between the handguard and the receiver, and protruding outward approximately three-sixteenths of an inch from each side, are two front swivels. Other sling attachment points can be found at the rear of the receiver. Inside of the receiver is the heart of the action, including the steel slide, recoil spring, guide stud, and striker, among other things.

The fire controls are contained within (or onto) the one-piece, fiber-reinforced polymer trigger unit casing. Except for the slide-release level, which is metal and positioned for right-handed shooters, the remaining controls are plastic and bilateral, endearing them to both right- and left-handed shooters.

■ GLOVES RECOMMENDED

Positioned at the front of the oversized trigger guard, the magazine catch/release lever is easily accessible without adjusting one's grip, and it readily clears the magazine. In addition, a large flared magazine well further enables rapid magazine changes.

Located just above and rearward of the trigger is the two-position safety, which incorporates a firing pin block. Switching from "safety" to "fire" forces the widest section of the tab to move downward, right against the thumb, which can be very uncomfortable. But it's the control's ambidextrous configuration that causes the most angst. In fact, nearly every field-test report that I read prior to my test mentioned that the tab of the safety lever caused discomfort in relatively short order, and I experienced this phenomenon, too. Within only a few shots a blister



▲ The oversized, bilateral magazine-release button is located at the front of the trigger guard and is easily reached without adjusting one's grip. Ejection of the magazine is brisk.

formed and tore at the base of my trigger finger, making subsequent shooting less pleasurable. Shooting gloves would likely remedy this issue.

The single-stage trigger required an average pull weight of 9 pounds, 11 ounces to break. In addition to exhibiting considerable travel, stacking immediately before the break was especially evident.

There was no overtravel, though, and reset was short. Although by no means a match-grade trigger, it is sufficient for plinking or self-defense use. As is evidenced in the groups attained during the testing phase, one can learn to “deal with” the heavy trigger.

■ GRIP, HANDLE & BARREL

The pistol grip is made from

the same fiber-reinforced polymer as the receiver and handguard. A nice feature of the grip is how it swells, or flares, near the bottom, thereby preventing your hand from sliding off. On both the frontstrap and backstrap, a series of channels—four per side on each—create steps to enhance purchase. That being said, the sides could benefit from integral checkering or stip-

⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1

Manufacturer: Ceska zbrojovka Uhersky Brod (CZ)

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Action Type: blowback-operated, center-fire repeating pistol

Frame: fiber-reinforced polymer

Barrel: 7.72 inches

Rifling: 1:9.8 RH

Magazine: polymer, detachable, double-stack; 20-round capacity

Sights: adjustable, low-profile post front and aperture rear

Trigger: single-action, single-stage, 9-pound, 11-ounce pull

Height: 8-5/8 inches

Length: 16.5 inches

Width: 2-3/8 inches

Weight: 5 pounds

Accessories: owner's manual, sight tool, spare magazine, pull-through bore cleaner

MSRP: \$849



▲ With its extensive array of integral Picatinny rails, the Scorpion EVO 3 S1 is a natural for adding accessories, such as the Crimson Trace Rail Master Pro. Lasers would permit the user to engage targets (or threats) when lighting conditions preclude the use of the factory iron sights.

pling. To facilitate a custom fit (i.e. better reach to the trigger), the pistol grip screw can be loosened so the grip can be moved forward or backward. Similarly, the HK-style non-reciprocating charging (or cocking) handle, located near the top of the handguard on the left side, can be quickly swapped to the right side for left-handed shooters.

There's a cutout on the cocking handle in the rearmost position above direct line of travel to hold it in place. With a loaded magazine (or with no magazine in place), pushing downward on the handle allows it to travel forward and lock up, loading a round in the process. Retracting the cocking handle cocks the hammer, and after each shot the hammer is automatically cocked back.

As previously mentioned, the Scorpion EVO 3 S1 is equipped with a cold-hammer-forged 7.72-inch,

1:9.8-RH-twist steel barrel ending in a compensator. That is ample length to extract maximum ballistic performance from most of today's high-performance loads. Do note, however, that the additional velocity attained in the longer-than-normal barrel could be enough to make subsonic loads become supersonic (and with the attendant report). Because the compensator is only secured in place via a compensator catch, it can be easily removed without tools.

Interestingly, SilencerCo. is already making its Octane Adapter so that owners can affix a suppressor to their S1.

Lastly, the EVO 3 S1 is fed by heavy-duty, translucent, double-stack magazines that are easily disassembled for any necessary cleaning and maintenance. The S1 ships with two 20-round versions, while the low-capacity offering has

a 10-round magazine. Thirty-round-capacity magazines are also available separately, and are, unsurprisingly, in high demand.

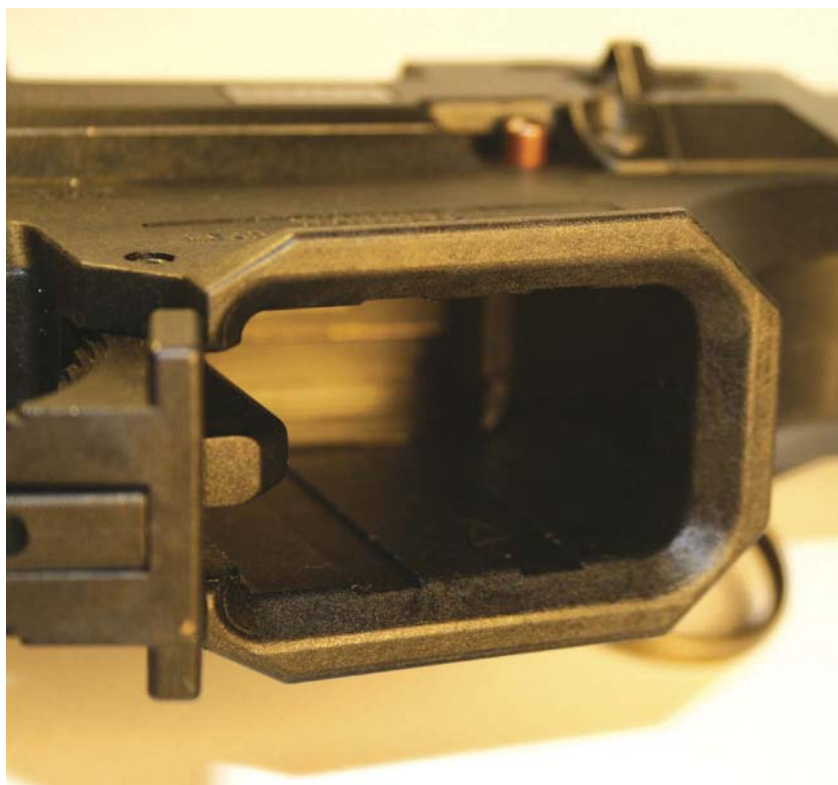
■ AT THE RANGE

The evaluation of the sample Scorpion EVO 3 S1 began with determining its accuracy potential from a Caldwell 7-Rest (and sandbag, of course) at 25 yards using the third largest aperture on the factory iron sights. The three 9 mm Luger loads used were: American Eagle Suppressor 124-gr. FMJ, Federal Premium Personal Defense HST 124-gr. JHP, and HPR Hyper Clean 124-gr. JHP.

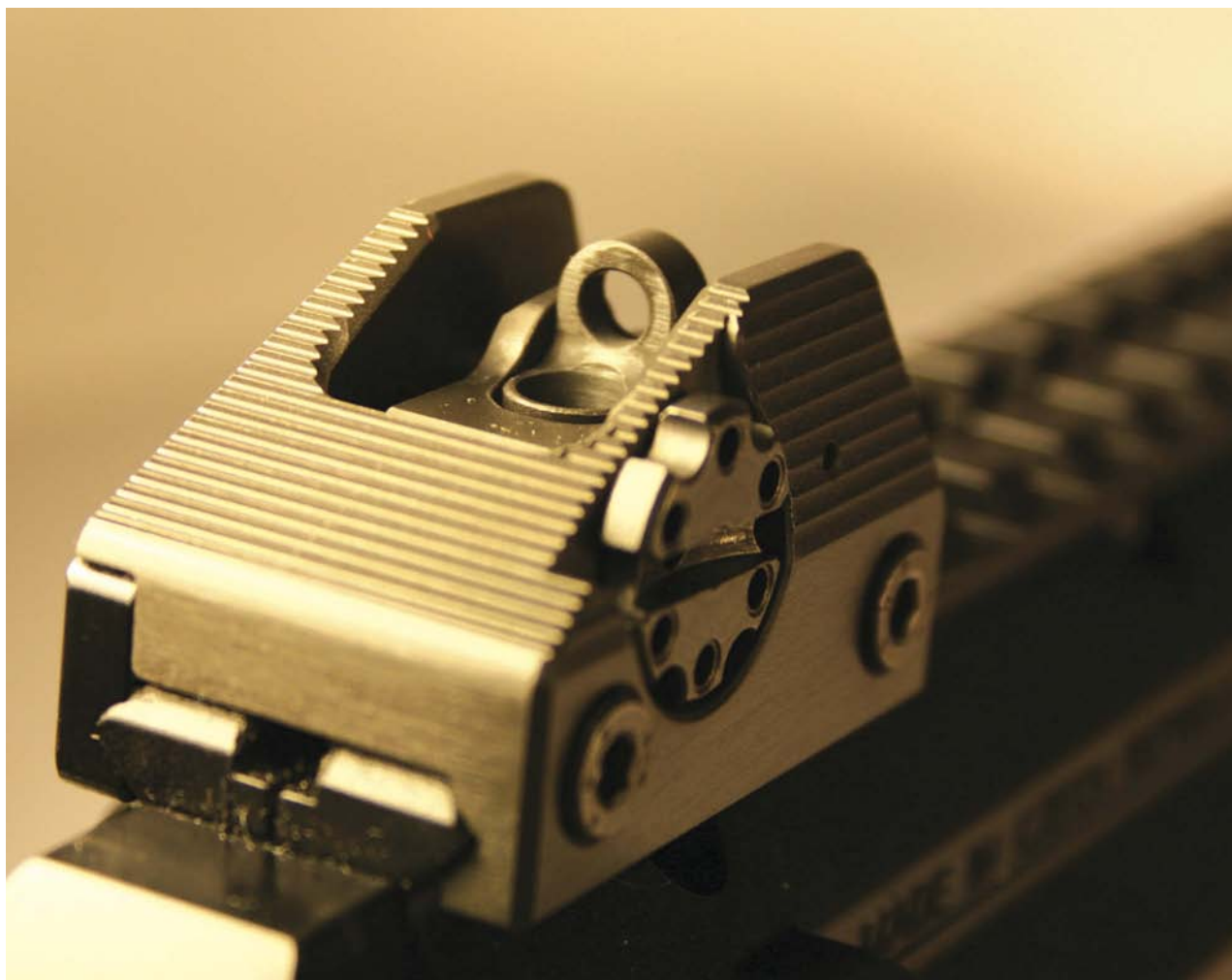
Immediately noticeable with the initial trigger take up was the "heartly" effort required to complete the pull while trying to maintain a steady, consistent sight picture. I achieved this by employing a traditional two-handed "pistol" grip with the fore-end sitting in the V-rest of the Caldwell 7-Rest. Although it was not easy to do, as evidenced by the accompanying table, the S1 is capable of fine accuracy if you're conscious about the trigger pull—think slow and steady pressure.

Of the loads tested, the most accurate proved to be Federal's Personal Defense HST 124-gr. JHP, which turned in an impressive 1.82-inch average for five consecutive, five-shot groups. HPR's Hyper Clean 124-gr. JHP came in second, posting an average of 1.95 inches for 25 shots. The fact that this was attained with iron sights and an excessive trigger pull is a testament to the gun's high quality design and manufacturing. As previously mentioned, shooting with the stock grip resulted in a blister in short order, so gloves are heartily recommended for high-volume shooting.

A Competition Electronics



▲ The magazine well is flared to quicken the insertion of the magazine.



▲ Made from steel and featuring a grooved housing to reduce glare, the adjustable rear sight has four apertures to enable rapid, precise shooting in a variety of lighting conditions and situations. The third largest was used for accuracy testing at 25 yards.

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

9mm Luger cartridge	Velocity (fps)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size in Inches		
			smallest	largest	average
AE Suppressor 124-gr. FMJ	1067 Avg. 17 SD	313	1.77	3.27	2.52
Federal PD HST 124-gr. JHP	1209 Avg. 14 SD	402	1.40	2.27	1.82
HPR HC 124-gr. JHP	1029 Avg. 20 SD	292	1.52	2.40	1.95
Average Extreme Spread: 2.10					

Notes: Measured average velocity for five shots from a 7.72-inch barrel over Competition Electronics chronograph at 5 feet. Accuracy results for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yards from a Caldwell 7-Rest. Temperature: 74° F. Humidity: 52%. Abbreviations: AE (American Eagle), FMJ (full metal jacket), HC (Hyper Clean), JHP (jacketed hollow point), PD (Personal Defense), SD (Standard deviation).



▲ The non-reciprocating charging handle is located on the left side of the pistol; however, it can easily be switched to the right side to accommodate left-handed shooters.

chronograph revealed that all three loads boasted gains over factory numbers, but, given the barrel length, this is to be expected.

■ MIXING IT UP

With accuracy testing completed, it was time to experiment. First, I wanted to shoot the EVO 3 S1 using the two-handed grip while standing with arms extended. Doing so revealed that, despite the pistol's size, it's superbly balanced; in fact, it feels no different in the hand than any other semi-automatic pistol. Using the larger apertures enables accurate sighting, too.

Changing to a hold with one hand on the pistol grip and the other on the fore-end was, at least for me, less comfortable and less accurate. It would, however, be a respectable choice for shooting on the move, which is likely to occur during a self-defense situation. While one-handed shooting is fun, it is also very impractical—especially with the non-dominant hand—due to the gun's excessive trigger pull weight. It was only after considerable practice with one-handed shooting that the bullets did not impact low and right, which is indicative of pulling (not easing) the trigger. Of course, the previously mentioned shooting brace would aid stability.

Lastly, I transitioned to a lowered, front-of-body shooting position (i.e. point shooting), which is impractical unless the target is close or a laser is installed. The latter, however, is a game changer; just put the red dot on the target and initiate the trigger-pull sequence. To me, the optimal setup would have the factory iron sights paired with a laser sight, or a reflex- or red-dot-style sight coupled with a laser. Both configurations



▲ This five-shot group, which was shot at 25 yards using Federal's Personal Defense HST 124-gr. JHP, is illustrative of the typical accuracy attained from the Scorpion EVO 3 S1—very good indeed. Although not evident in this picture, it was commonplace for two to three shots within a string to cloverleaf.



▲ The standard Scorpion EVO 3 S1 ships with two, twenty-round-capacity, double-stack, translucent polymer magazines. Ten- and thirty-round-capacity versions are available separately.

would be tough to beat for home-defense use.

Throughout all phases of testing there wasn't a single failure to feed, fire, extract, or eject, but knowing the gun's lineage, that was to be expected. The gun digested the hodgepodge of bullet weights and profiles (i.e. leftovers from previous handgun tests) with aplomb and delivered the goods quickly—low recoil and muzzle flip enabled rapid follow-up shots.

Given the Scorpion EVO 3 S1's reliability, features, and accuracy, I can easily see why several countries have adopted it (in the A1 form) for use by their militaries and law enforcement agencies.

FINAL WORDS

After spending considerable time testing the Scorpion EVO 3 S1, I can unabashedly state that I am a big fan. It offers everything that the personal protection practitioner needs, including compact size for ease of maneuverability and transport, innumerable practical and useful features, access to upwards of 30 rounds (with magazine purchased separately) of inexpensive and universally available 9mm Luger ammunition, flawless functioning, and perfect balance, among many other features.

And with an MSRP of \$849, it's also a real bargain. **GW**

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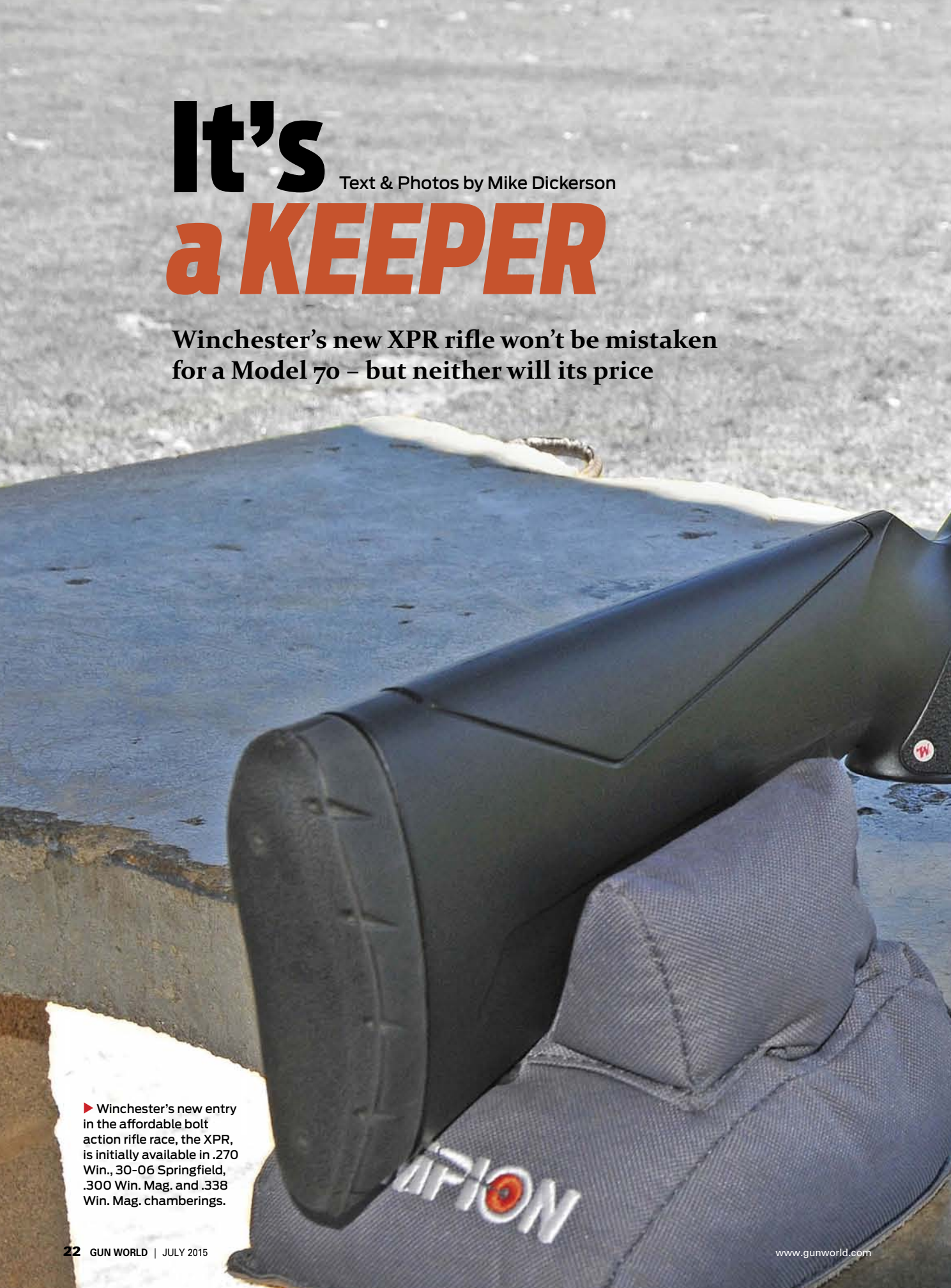


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It's Text & Photos by Mike Dickerson *a KEEPER*

Winchester's new XPR rifle won't be mistaken for a Model 70 – but neither will its price

A close-up photograph of a Winchester XPR rifle. The rifle is black and is lying on a blue, textured cloth. The cloth has the word 'CHAMPION' printed on it in white, with a red bullseye logo. The rifle is positioned diagonally across the frame. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly concrete or stone.

► Winchester's new entry in the affordable bolt action rifle race, the XPR, is initially available in .270 Win., 30-06 Springfield, .300 Win. Mag. and .338 Win. Mag. chamberings.



I am fond of fine, classic rifles with richly figured walnut stocks, but many gun buyers – especially first-time buyers – don't give a hoot about the aesthetics of a rifle. They don't want or can't afford high-grade walnut stocks, engraved receivers, exotic coatings or fancy fluted bolts.

These folks want something that resists the elements, works reliably, shoots small groups and won't break the bank. Many would not participate in hunting or the shooting sports if the only rifles available to them wore \$1,000-plus price tags – and it's worth remembering that, without participation, we have no sport.

Happily, plenty of manufacturers are making no-frills rifles at affordable prices. The way I see it, we're living in a golden age of sporting rifles, with choices to suit every taste and budget.

The list of rifles in the \$400-\$700 price range includes the Remington 783, Ruger American, Savage Axis, Tikka T3 Lite, Thompson Center Venture, Mossberg ATR, Browning AB3, and the Weatherby Vanguard S2.



▼ This right-side view of the XPR shows the rifle's beefy bolt and straightforward styling. The barrel is attached to the action with a barrel nut (not visible) which allows for precise headspacing.

■ MUSCLING IN

One name that has been notably missing from that list is Winchester, of Model 70 fame, but the Winchester brand has just muscled its way into that market with the introduction the new XPR rifle.

Initially offered in .270 Win., 30-06 Springfield, .300 Win. Mag. and .338 Win. Mag. chamberings, the XPR rifle will never be mistaken for the flagship Model 70, but neither will its price tag. You'll likely be able to find the XPR at your local dealer for \$500 - \$550.

Of course, with the name Winchester stamped on the barrel – even if it does say, “Made in Portugal” – expectations are bound to run high. Here's a look at what you'll get for your money.

■ DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Starting at the business end, the XPR scores points with its sporter profile 24-inch, chrome-moly barrel with matte blued finish and recessed target crown. Button-rifled and thermally stress relieved, the barrel is truly free-floated and attached to the receiver with a bar-

rel nut, as is commonly used on Savage rifles.

Free-floating and use of a barrel nut can shave costs during manufacture, but these features can also enhance the gun's accuracy when properly executed.

I did not find the stock shape or contours to be objectionable. The gun mounts nicely to the shoulder and has a solid, weight-forward heft to it. The stock did feel a bit too “plastic” for my liking, but I have to admit that today's lighter synthetic stocks can be a real blessing on long treks in the boonies. The forend of the XPR stock has a flattened bottom, a benefit when shooting off a rest or sandbags, and panels on the forend and grip area are stippled to improve handling in adverse weather. An Inflex recoil pad helps direct recoil energy down and away from your face.

The receiver is machined from chrome-moly steel bar stock and through-hardened during heat-treating. It has, as is common to ri-

fles in this price range, a basic oval ejection port. The port is big enough to eject spent casings, but I had difficulty manually inserting single cartridges far enough forward to feed into the chamber without hanging up. Cartridges fed smoothly and without issue from the detachable polymer three-round box magazine.

Two socket-head action screws secure the action to “flat profile interface pads” and into a cross-mounted recoil lug. The top of the receiver is drilled and tapped for large 8-40 screws, definitely a plus in my book.

One thing you'll quickly notice when picking up the XPR is its beefy bolt, which can be field stripped for cleaning without use of special tools. The XPR is not, like its famous Model 70 stable mate, a controlled round feed gun. It has a push feed action that's quite similar

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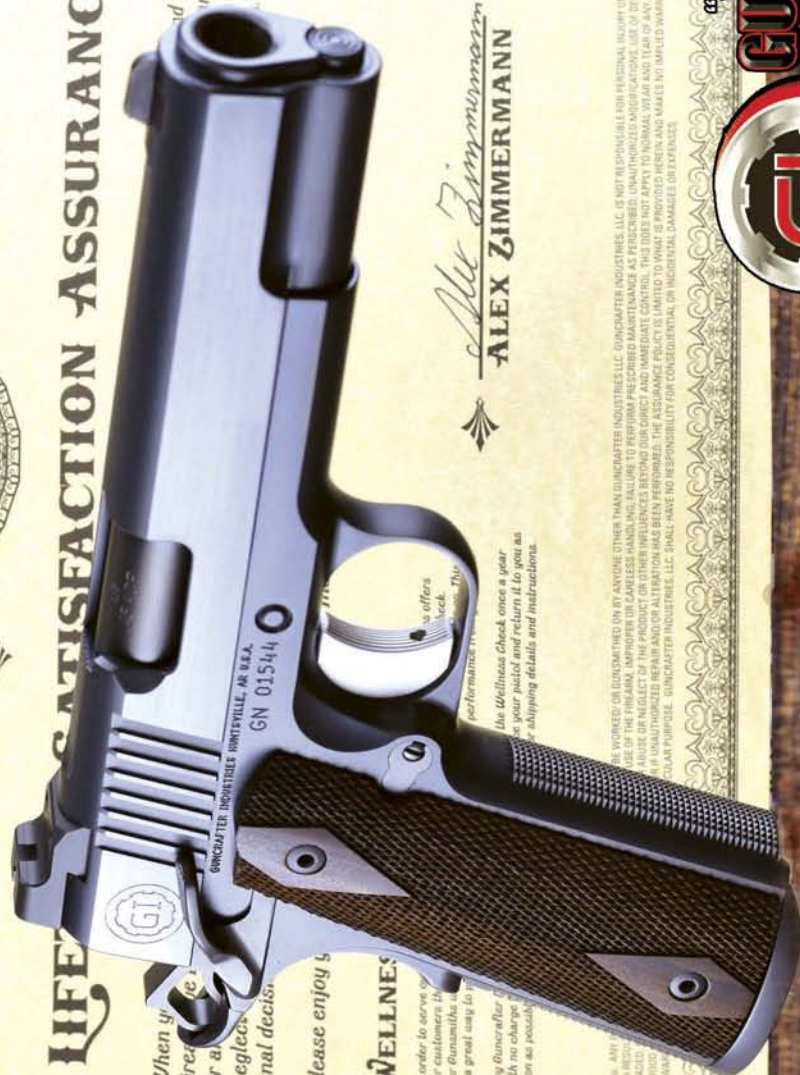
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▲ For testing, the author mounted Leupold's Mark 4 4.5-14x50 mm scope in a set of lightweight one-piece 30 mm rings from Talley Manufacturing.

⦿ SPECIFICATIONS

WINCHESTER XPR RIFLE

Caliber: 30-06 Springfield (as tested)

Action: Bolt Action

Barrel: 24 inches free-floated

Finish: Matte blue

Stock: Matte black polymer

Overall: Length: 44 ½ inches

Weight: 7 pounds

Magazine: 3 rounds, detachable box

Sights: None, drilled and tapped for scope

MSRP: \$549

to that of the Browning AB3.

I won't get into the great debate of "push feed versus controlled round feed" here, except to note that it makes little practical difference to anyone except those who insist on CRF rifles for hunting large and dangerous game, and there's considerable room for debate on that point.

The XPR's full-diameter bolt is made from chrome-moly steel, but at first you might mistake it for stainless because it has a nickel-Teflon coating that improves corrosion resistance and should help the bolt cycle smoothly. It did, but the bolt was a little stiff on the upward cocking stroke.

I liked that the bolt uses three front locking lugs and has a short, 60-degree throw, giving you plenty



of clearance and options for scope mounting. A red-dot cocking indicator protrudes from the rear of the bolt when the rifle action is cocked.

Another thing you'll notice when handling the XPR is a small button positioned just forward of the two-position safety. This button unlocks the bolt when the safety is in the "on" position, allowing you to unload the rifle with the safety engaged. It's a nice and unexpected feature on a rifle in this price category.

I've never been a fan of synthetic or plastic trigger guards and bottom plates, such as those used in the XPR, but at least this one-piece part is replaceable. With some rifles in this price range, breaking the trigger guard means you'll have to replace the entire stock.

Between the action screws, you'll find the detachable polymer box magazine. It protrudes slightly from the bottom of the stock and

pops into your hand nicely when you pull the recessed magazine release button to the rear.

■ TRIGGER

One thing that the XPR shares with the contemporary Model 70 is the M.O.A. trigger system. The XPR's trigger components are made of hardened carbon steel with a blued finish for corrosion protection.

Pull weight on the trigger is adjustable from three to five pounds. The trigger on our test rifle, as it arrived from the factory, broke cleanly and consistently at 3 pounds, 7 ounces. That's slightly heavier than I prefer for most hunting rifles, but perfectly acceptable given the fact that the trigger had no perceptible take-up, creep or over-travel.

For testing, I left it at the factory setting to duplicate a buyer's out-of-the-box experience.



▲ The detachable polymer magazine protrudes slightly from the bottom of the stock and is released by pulling the recessed magazine release button to the rear.

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▲ The small button positioned just forward of the two-position safety unlocks the bolt when the safety is in the “on” position, allowing you to unload the rifle with the safety engaged.



▲ The XPR, like its famous Model 70 stable mate, uses Winchester’s M.O.A. trigger system, which is adjustable to a pull weight of three to five pounds.

■ BUCKING THE WIND

To squeeze maximum accuracy out of the rifle, I mounted a Leupold Mark 4 4.5-14x50mm scope. This scope has a 30mm tube, and finding 30mm rings isn’t always easy with new rifle models. Fortunately, my friends at Talley Manufacturing were able to produce a set of 30mm lightweight one-piece rings to fit the new XPR, and that gave me a rock-solid setup for testing.

Unfortunately, I don’t always get to pick the weather when testing rifles, and I had to do all testing of the XPR when the wind blew 15-25 mph all day, with gusts topping 28 mph. The effects were evident in test groups, but the rifle still performed admirably under the conditions – and remarkably so in the case of one tested load, which we’ll get to shortly.



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PERFORMANCE RESULTS

WINCHESTER XPR RIFLE

LOAD	AVG. MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	AVG. 100-YARD GROUP (INCHES)	BEST 100-YARD GROUP (INCHES)
Barnes VOR-TX 180 gr. TTSX BT	2728	1.62	1.54
Federal Fusion 150 gr.	2969	1.32	1.01
Federal Vital-Shok 165 gr. Nosler Ballistic Tip	2857	0.58	0.31
Hornady American Whitetail 150 gr. InterLock	2928	1.89	1.59
Hornady Superformance 150 gr. SST	3156	1.54	0.99
Winchester 168 gr. Ballistic Silvertip	3044	1.28	1.06

Note: Velocities measured with Competitive Edge Dynamics M2 chronograph. All groups fired in 15-28 mph wind.

“ One thing the XPR shares with the contemporary Model 70 is the M.O.A. trigger system.

In all, I tested six different factory loads from Barnes, Federal, Hornady and Winchester in bullet weights ranging from 150 grains to 180 grains. Interestingly, velocities measured over my chronograph mildly exceeded factory-stated velocities for the tested cartridges in all but one case. In that instance, Winchester's 168-grain Ballistic Silvertip load clocked in at 3,044 fps, which is an attention-getting 254 fps above factory-stated speed.

The wind gave me some challenges during accuracy testing. The average size of all groups fired at 100 yards was 1.37 inches. That's perfectly acceptable for hunting, but not necessarily what one expects from a Winchester rifle. When you take a closer look, however, average group size only tells part of the story.

SCOPED FOR SUCCESS

The riflescope used in this review, the Leupold Mark 4 LR/T 4.5-14x50mm (30mm), is often thought of as a purely tactical scope, given its common presence atop rifles used in law enforcement, but the scope is equally at home as a long-range hunter or in competitive target shooting.

This is due, in part, to the scope's Tactical Milling Reticle, which subtends like all Mil Dot reticles, but with greater accuracy and precision.

I like using the scope as a dedicated test scope due to the light-gathering qualities of the large, 50mm objective lens and the high magnification range, which allows me to squeeze maximum accuracy out of tested rifles.

The scope offers generous eye relief, even at high magnification, and helps extend shooting time with Leupold's Xtended Twilight Lens system, which maximizes transmission of the blue/violet spectrum.

Lenses have a DiamondCoat 2 ion-assisted coating for durability and abrasion resistance, and the scope is waterproofed with a second-generation argon/krypton gas blend.

The scope has a side focus or parallax adjustment and M1 knobs. Each click equals 0.25 MOA, and each full revolution of the M1 knob equals 15 MOA, up to a maximum of 100 MOA of adjustment.

Tracking and repeatability have been excellent.



▲ The XPR bolt has a short, 60-degree throw, giving you plenty of clearance and options for scope mounting.



▲ The author puts the XPR through its paces at the range.

Four different loads, which were likely fired at times when the wind was relatively consistent, turned in best groups that were near or under one inch. Even bucking the wind, the average size of all “best” groups was just 1.08 inches, or just slightly over one MOA.

A hint of the rifle’s true potential was evident in its preference for one load over all others tested. Federal’s 165-grain Vital-Shok load, with a Nosler Ballistic Tip bullet, turned in average groups measuring 0.58 inches, and a single best group of 0.31 inches (measured in the traditional way, outside edge to outside edge, with caliber subtracted).

That performance, under those

conditions, convinced me that the rifle is capable of very good accuracy. I’m certain groups would shrink on less-windy days and with a bit more rifle break-in, and I would happily take this rifle hunting anywhere a 30-06 is appropriate, which encompasses a significant portion of the planet.

Are there some tradeoffs with this rifle? You bet. There are tradeoffs with every rifle in this price category. However, if you’re looking for a solid, basic rifle that will help you stock the freezer without taking out a second mortgage, the XPR may be the rifle you’ve been waiting for.

It’s a keeper. **GW**

CONTACT

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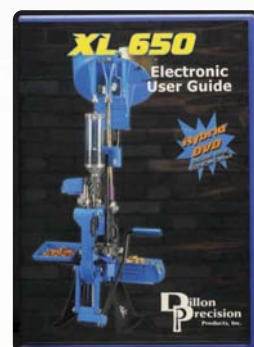
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Pure *GENIUS*

Text & Photos by Dave Workman

Ruger's SR1911 CMD-A takes the 4.25-inch 1911 to a higher plane

Genius. That's what I told the Ruger folks during the 2015 SHOT Show media range day after field-stripping their newest incarnation of the popular .45 ACP SR1911 semi-auto pistol. This Commander-size handgun has something going for it that is simply brilliant.





The two-tone finish of the Ruger SR1911 CMD-A is handsome from top to bottom.



▲ Workman says the Ruger SR1911 is fast and reliable, and most of all, it is lighter than a steel-framed pistol.

■ POINTS OF INTEREST

Officially, this is the SR1911 CMD-A and its two-tone finish is handsome from top to bottom. The stainless slide and barrel contrast sharply with the black hard coat anodized frame.

It comes from the factory with two 7-round magazines, thin double-diamond hardwood checkered grip panels with Ruger medallions, skeletonized trigger, beavertail grip safety with a bump, and long thumb safety latch on the left side.

Ruger designed this pistol with

a flat checkered mainspring housing. There are seven horizontal grooves located on the front strap and the magazine well is beveled slightly for easy magazine insertion on reload.

The ejection port is lowered and flared, and the barrel has a notch on top at the rear that acts as a visual indicator to see at a glance if a round is in the chamber.

■ PREVENTATIVE MEASURE

The aluminum frame is notched completely on the left side

where the slide release is located. This will eliminate concerns among veteran shooters familiar with complaints about small stress fractures at that point that have occasionally been reported on older Colt Commander models, though my personal custom-built sidearm hasn't shown any signs of such stress. And to be completely honest, I can't recall ever having personally seen one of these specimens.

■ GENIUS AT WORK

Other aluminum-framed 1911s tend to wear out the feed ramps rather quickly, so Ruger designers upped the ante by placing a titanium insert on the wear area of the feed ramp.

I spoke at length with Brandon Trevino, Ruger's product manager for pistols. He said that the titanium feed ramp is the result of testing the gun extensively. Ruger designers started with a standard aluminum alloy frame and found that the feed ramp on the models they tested were being "chewed up" after several hundred rounds, and had to be polished.



▲ The magazine well is beveled for easy loading.

When you polish a feed ramp, you remove material, and that includes the anodizing on the surface. Trevino noted that some custom gun makers like to install a steel feed ramp, but in my estimation, the titanium saves weight, it is tough and it can be anodized.

Trevino pointed out that the titanium piece is inserted into the frame casting prior to machining, to ensure a dimensionally correct finished frame, and my experience so far says everything is spot-on.

■ THERE'S A LOT TO LIKE

Ruger's entry is a standout, and the feed ramp is just one among many reasons.

It is accurate. The model I fired at the SHOT Show put every round where I aimed, using 230-grain FMJs.

The test piece Ruger sent to me several weeks later shot just a hair low with some loads, but the windage was good. These are three-dot Novak sights and the rear sight is drift-adjustable, so that's an easy

problem to solve.

I suspect much of this pistol's accuracy is because both the 4.25-inch barrel and bushing are machined out of the same bar stock, so they are matched through the entire production phase.

Ruger's factory trigger breaks clean and crisp at about 4.5 pounds, perhaps a little lighter. I didn't have a trigger weight, but my own street guns do have that trigger let-off, and the test piece felt about the same. If there was any difference, it was negligible.

The gun is tight, but not too tight and rail-to-rail fit is superb. A drop of Tetra or some other reliable oil along those rails should keep the SR1911 running like a Swiss watch.

Ruger delivers the SR1911 CMD-A with a tough synthetic bushing wrench and a coated steel cable lock that fits perfectly down through the ejection



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▲ Notice that the slot for the slide stop is a cutout. This eliminates any concern over stress cracks at that point.

⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

SR1911 CMD-A

Manufacturer: Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.

Caliber: .45 ACP

Capacity: 7 rounds

Barrel: 4.25 inches

Slide: Stainless steel

Frame: Aluminum with titanium feed ramp

Length: 7.75 inches

Sights: Adjustable three-dot Novak

MSRP: \$899

port and magazine well for safe storage. The zippered nylon case holds it all together and even has space for an extra magazine.

■ ON THE OTHER HAND

There are two things about SR1911 that I didn't care for – the grip panels, and the trigger size.

The grip panels, while handsome, are too thin for my liking. My personal carry guns have thicker grips, including a couple that I've fitted with genuine stag grips.

"We went to a thin grip configuration because it's a carry gun," Brandon Trevino explained. "They've got a little less bulk."

Fair enough. I suspect many if not most people will agree with the approach Ruger has taken. Swapping the



▲ Ruger supplies two stainless steel, 7-round magazines with each pistol.

factory panels out for something different takes a couple of minutes, though, and I'd probably do that just to personalize the pistol.

Then there's the trigger. It's a bit too long for me. There's actually nothing wrong with the trigger, it's my trigger finger that's the problem.

I like a short trigger on my 1911 models, just because my index finger can reach around it more easily.

There. I feel better now.

■ SPEED TRIALS

Because Ruger naturally wants their pistols to function with all sorts of ammunition, the endurance tests involved plenty of hollowpoints, because that's what many people carry in a defensive handgun.

As soon as I got the pistol, I headed to the range with an assortment of ammunition and I found that out of that 4.25-inch barrel, the ammo strokes right along.

With my Chrony Alpha chronograph set a couple of feet ahead of the pistol's muzzle, I found the slowest velocities with Black Hills 230-grain FMJs at 749.6 fps, while everything else was above the 800 fps mark.

Winchester's 230-grain Personal Protection JHPs averaged 818.6 fps. Next, the Sig 200-grain JHP clocked at an average of 882.7 fps, while the Barnes TAC XPD 185-grainers averaged 899.7 fps.

Some older Taurus loads with 185-grain JHP bullet moved out at 942.0 fps but my



BUY ANY NEW BROWNING MODEL 1911-22 OR BUCK MARK PISTOL BETWEEN MAY 22, 2015 AND JUNE 30, 2015 AND WE'LL SEND YOU \$25.

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BROWNING®



▲ Workman hit the range with a variety of ammunition and found the new lightweight Ruger to be a good, comfortable shooter.

top speeds were achieved with HPR Black Ops loads with 150-grainers averaging 956.0 fps.

■ MAGS

For most of my years packing a .45, I've grown accustomed to eight-round magazines, but I find Ruger's seven-rounders are well built and reliable.

Many problems with a semi-automatic can be traced to the magazine, and I'm happy to say both magazines performed well during testing, and I didn't have a single failure to feed.

Of course, eight-round magazines from Wilson, Chip McCormick and other makers will work just fine in the SR1911 CMD-A. I tried a couple of different ones and there were no surprises.

The only discernible differences are cosmetic. Ruger factory mags have flat and flush floorplates, while the aftermarket models usually have extended floorplates made from a polymer.



▲ 15 rounds at 15 yards; a nice & tight group.



▲ Ruger delivers this pistol with a tough nylon case.



▲ A glance up the barrel after about 100 rounds.

■ PRACTICAL CARRY

Weighing 29.3 ounces empty and around 35-36 ounces with a full magazine, the Ruger carries well. It comes out of the leather fast, and it comes quickly up to eye level so that the sights are aligned for a shot.

Every holster made for my Commander will work with the Ruger. I have ones I personally built and others made by Greg Kramer, N82 Tactical and High Noon. They all fit, so finding a holster to fit this pistol will not be a problem.

In reality, nearly anyone who buys the SR1911 will likely wind up with more than a single holster.

■ APPROVAL

It's hardly a secret I'm attracted to this particular size of pistol. I think the barrel and slide length combined with the full-size frame that takes a full-length magazine is inherently well balanced.

In the ranks of Commander-sized Model 1911-type pistols, this SR1911 stands head and shoulders above its contemporaries. **GW**

CONTACT

Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.
928-541-8892
Ruger.com

Black Hills Ammunition
605-348-5150
Black-Hills.com

Winchester Ammunition
Winchester.com

SIG SAUER, Inc.
603-610-3000
SigSauer.com

Barnes Bullets
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JANTZ - USA AT K

JANTZ USA MADE BLADES

Jantz Blades are the highest quality pre-shaped blades available anywhere.
Each of these hollow ground blades are designed by our team and crafted 100% on site at our facility.

Oyster Blade



The back is flat.

Designed with beauty and usability in mind, the rounded end and ground tip is perfect for shucking oysters practically and safely. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 6 3/4", blade is 2 1/4" x 1.04" wide, .100" thick. Handle Holes 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J1008	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	29.95
J1089	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	49.95

Pattern 35



Overall length 6 5/8", blade is 3" x 3/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Handle Holes 3/16", Thong Hole 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J3508	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J3528	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J3558	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	39.95
J3589	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	49.95

Large Caper



Overall length 7 3/4", blade is 3" x 3/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Handle Holes 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J8258	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	34.95
J8289	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	59.95

Small Caper



Overall length 5 1/8", blade is 2" x 1/2" wide, .100" thick. Handle Holes 1/8".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J8158	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	29.95
J8189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	29.95

Jantz Blades are the highest quality pre-shaped blades available anywhere.

The two blades below are only a portion of our flat ground **Jantz** Blades. Designed and crafted 100% on site at our facility.

Pattern 31



Pattern 31 is flat ground and has optimal edge holding capability. Overall length 7 5/8", Blade Length 3", width 1 1/8", thickness 5/32". Bolster holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J3127	D2	Peened	Cryo	59-61	31.95
J3128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	31.95
J3147	154CM	Peened	Cryo	58-59	35.95
J3148	154CM	Satin	Cryo	58-59	35.95
J3198	1095	Satin	Cryo	57-58	24.95
J319K	1095	Black	Cryo	57-58	24.95
J3189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	79.95

Pattern 65



Overall length 8 7/16", blade is 3 1/2" x 1 1/8" wide, 5/32" thick. Handle Holes 3/16", Thong Hole 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J6508	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	39.95
J6528	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	39.95
J6589	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

Pattern 51



Similar to our Pattern 31 with a full hollow grind. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 7 5/8", blade is 3" x 1 1/8" wide, 5/32" thick. Bolster Holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4". See online for accessories.

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J5108	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	34.95
J5128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	34.95
J5148	154CM	Satin	Cryo	58-59	39.95
J5178	CPMS 90V	Satin	Cryo	56-59	99.95
J5189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

Pattern 52



Similar to our Pattern 22 with a full hollow grind. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 8 3/8", blade is 3 1/2" x 1 3/32" wide, 5/32" thick. Bolster Holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4". See page online for accessories.

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J5208	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	39.95
J5228	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	39.95
J5289	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

Pattern 61



Pattern 61 is flat ground and has optimal edge holding capability. Overall length 7 3/4", Blade Length 3 1/4", width 1 1/4", thickness 9/64" (.140"). Bolster holes 3/32", Handle Holes 3/32" and 3/16", Thong Hole 1/4".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J6127	D2	Peened	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J6128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J6107	440C	Peened	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J6108	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J6157	CPM154	Peened	Cryo	59-60	44.95
J6158	CPM154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	44.95
J6189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	89.95

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1 1/2" X 10" Scales below.

Glow



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
K1815	1/8"	10.95
K1315	3/16"	15.95
K1415	1/4"	19.95

Desert Camo



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
K1802	1/8"	8.95
K1302	3/16"	9.95
K1402	1/4"	14.95

Lava Flow



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
K1804	1/8"	8.95
K1304	3/16"	9.95
K1404	1/4"	14.95

Red Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
K1808	1/8"	8.95
K1308	3/16"	10.95
K1408	1/4"	13.95

Green Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
K1810	1/8"	8.95
K1310	3/16"	10.95
K1410	1/4"	13.95

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Patriot



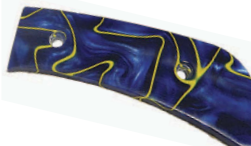
CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1801	1/8"	8.95
KI1301	3/16"	9.95
KI1401	1/4"	14.95

Toxic Green



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1803	1/8"	8.95
KI1303	3/16"	9.95
KI1403	1/4"	14.95

Royal Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1807	1/8"	8.95
KI1307	3/16"	9.95
KI1407	1/4"	14.95

Black Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1806	1/8"	8.95
KI1306	3/16"	10.95
KI1406	1/4"	13.95

Blue Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1809	1/8"	8.95
KI1309	3/16"	10.95
KI1409	1/4"	13.95

All steel offered below by JANTZ is made in the USA. Visit www.knifemaking.com to purchase other widths and thicknesses.

CPM® S110V® Stainless Steel

CPM S110V is a high alloy martensitic stainless tool steel. Offers better corrosion resistance than 440C or CPM S90V. Aim hardness is 58/61. Typical chemistry C 2.8, Nb 3.0, Cr 15.25, V 9.00, Mo 2.25, Co 2.5.

18" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
QF118	1/8"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 65.95
QF658	5/32"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 98.95
QF718	3/16"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 86.95
QF728	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$113.95

36" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
QF136	1/8"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$129.95
QF656	5/32"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$195.95
QF716	3/16"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$171.95
QF726	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$225.95

CPM® 20-CV Tool Steel

CPM 20CV is a martensitic stainless steel with exceptionally good wear resistance and outstanding corrosion resistance. Aim for hardness is 58-59Rc. CPM 20CV is a registered trademark of Crucible Industries LLC.

Typical chemistry: C 1.9, Cr 20.0, V 4.0, Mo 1.0, W 6.

18" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	TF218 - \$ 36.95	TU218 - \$ 42.95	TG218 - \$ 48.95
1/8"	2"	TF228 - \$ 44.95	TU228 - \$ 52.95	TG228 - \$ 60.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	TF318 - \$ 48.95	TU318 - \$ 54.95	TG318 - \$ 60.95
5/32"	2"	TF328 - \$ 65.95	TU328 - \$ 73.95	TG328 - \$ 81.95

36" Steel

1/8"	1 1/2"	TF216 - \$ 72.95	TU216 - \$ 84.95	TG216 - \$ 96.95
1/8"	2"	TF226 - \$ 93.95	TU226 - \$109.95	TG226 - \$125.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	TF316 - \$ 90.95	TU316 - \$102.95	TG316 - \$114.95
5/32"	2"	TF326 - \$123.95	TU326 - \$139.95	TG326 - \$155.95

CPM® REX M4 High Speed Steel

CPM REX M4 HC(HS) is a special purpose high speed steel exhibiting better wear resistance and toughness. Also providing enhanced machinability and grindability. Aim hardness is 63/65. Typical chemistry: C 1.42, Mn .30, S .06, Cr 4.00, V 4.0, Mo 5.25, W 5.5.

18" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
JF428	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 52.95
JF518	1/4"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 52.95
JF528	1/4"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 70.95
JF548	1/4"	4"	MILL FINISH	\$134.95

36" Steel

JF426	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$103.95
JF516	1/4"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$103.95
JF526	1/4"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$139.95
JF546	1/4"	4"	MILL FINISH	\$268.95

CPM® D2 Carbon Steel

CPM D2 is an air-hardening, high carbon, high chromium tool steel, heat treatable to HRC 60-62. It offers excellent abrasion resistance. Machinable in the annealed condition and exhibits minimal distortion on hardening. Typical chemistry: C 1.50, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 12.00, V .95, Mo .90.

18" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF218 - \$ 26.95	ZU218 - \$ 32.95	ZG218 - \$ 38.95
1/8"	2"	ZF228 - \$ 34.95	ZU228 - \$ 42.95	ZG228 - \$ 50.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF318 - \$ 28.95	ZU318 - \$ 34.95	ZG318 - \$ 40.95
5/32"	2"	ZF328 - \$ 39.95	ZU328 - \$ 47.95	ZG328 - \$ 55.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF418 - \$ 35.95	ZU418 - \$ 41.95	ZG418 - \$ 47.95
3/16"	2"	ZF428 - \$ 45.95	ZU428 - \$ 53.95	ZG428 - \$ 61.95

36" Steel

1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF216 - \$ 51.95	ZU216 - \$ 63.95	ZG216 - \$ 75.95
1/8"	2"	ZF226 - \$ 65.95	ZU226 - \$ 81.95	ZG226 - \$ 97.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF316 - \$ 55.95	ZU316 - \$ 67.95	ZG316 - \$ 79.95
5/32"	2"	ZF326 - \$ 75.95	ZU326 - \$ 91.95	ZG326 - \$107.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF416 - \$ 66.95	ZU416 - \$ 78.95	ZG416 - \$ 90.95
3/16"	2"	ZF426 - \$ 86.95	ZU426 - \$102.95	ZG426 - \$118.95

FOLDER ACCESSORIES

GTC

Bearings



GTC 440C stainless steel thrust ball bearings caged in stainless steel retainers developed by Gustavo T. Cecchini's GTC Knives to reduce friction and failures, increase opening time, and easier cleaning. The 100% stainless steel construction eliminates the problems of other thrust bearings that are not 100% stainless. Sold separately.

CAT.#	O.D.	I.D.	BALL DIA.	PRICE
GC101	.354"	.157"	.062"	1.29
GC106	.358"	.192"	.062"	1.29
GC111	.378"	.218"	.062"	1.29
GC121	.415"	.255"	.062"	1.29
GC102	.454"	.258"	.078"	1.29

Decorative Torx Screws for Pivot Pins

Designed and manufactured by JANTZ in our facility. Use with our threaded pivot barrels. 303 Stainless Torx head screw, .350" in length and threaded 6-48.



CAT.#	NAME	DIAMETER	TORX	PRICE
FF401	Spinner	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF402	Galaxy	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF403	Orchid	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF404	Turbine	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF271	Solar Flare	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF273	Gear	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF275	Bullseye	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF276	Cosmos	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF277	Texas Star	5/16"	T8	2.49

Threaded Pivot Only



Pivot barrels are threaded 6-48.

CAT.#	O.D.	LENGTH	FITS	PRICE
F85B	3/16"	.350"	1/4"	1.95
F88B	3/16"	.500"	1/4"	1.95
F96B	1/4"	.350"	5/16"	1.95
F98B	1/4"	.500"	5/16"	1.95

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JANTZ





The Remington 870 tactical shotgun is a relatively simple and very effective close combat weapon, and more than ten million 870s of all types have been built since it was introduced during the early 1950s. The military bought some 870s in “riot gun” configuration, but it’s the law enforcement market that has been dominated by the 870 for decades.

The trend for many law enforcement agencies to replace shotguns with AR15s in vehicles has reduced the number of 870s seen in patrol cars, but it remains the standard by which police shotguns are judged.

One of the author’s long-serving 18-inch Scattergun Technologies shotguns; note that the older style SureFire pressure pad is used.

Supercharged **SHOTGUN**

Text & Photos by Leroy Thompson

Scattergun Technologies Works
its Magic on the Remington 870





▲ A short-barreled Scattergun shotgun with a 12-inch barrel; the original owner ordered a spare 14-inch barrel, shown above.

“The Remington 870 tactical shotgun is a relatively simple and very effective close combat weapon.”

■ LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

The basic 870 “riot gun” design today is not that much different from the first one I owned during the 1960s. In fact, I think that one was built in the 1950s, as I had purchased it used. I’ve probably owned a dozen 870s in my time, and still own four or five of them. All are of the combat variety. I’ve never owned a sporting model.

Many of them I purchased as police trade-ins at local gun shops. If I could get them cheap, I bought them and set them aside. Lately, I don’t find as many police trade-ins.

Throughout my association with the 870, I’ve found it highly re-

liable, though I have short-stroked one occasionally as I learned to consciously always pull the pump action all the way to the rear and thrust it all the way forward. Early on, though, I realized the 870 wasn’t perfect.

■ HEADSHOT MODS

Quite a few years ago, I saw my first Scattergun Technologies Model 870 and I fell in love. It kept all of the features I liked about the 870 as a combat shotgun, but enhanced it and corrected many of its minor faults.

I sent one of my police trade-in 870s to Scattergun Technologies when it was still in Tennessee, be-

fore it moved to Arkansas and became part of Wilson Combat.

At the time, I was training a lot of tactical units and wanted mostly standard upgrades, but I did specify modifying my 870’s choke so that it could be used for headshots at around 15 yards.

I do understand that a handgun or rifle would be a more effective gun to eliminate a hostage taker, but the situation has, and will likely again, arise where an officer or a homeowner might find himself with a shotgun in his hands facing an armed person holding a hostage.

When the Scattergun 870 arrived I did a lot of shooting with various buckshot loads at



hostage/hostage taker targets and I found that it would, on average, keep about nine 00 buckshot in the hostage taker's head.

I still practiced transitioning to my pistol for headshots or used a carbine at longer range, but the Scattergun Technologies 870 performed as requested and I used it during training courses to show what it could do.

I have been satisfied enough with my original Scattergun purchase that I have used the gun as one of my primary combat shotguns ever since.

When I got my first Scattergun Technologies Shotgun, there were two features that immediately proved invaluable. First, I found the rear Trak-Lock ghost ring sight combined with the front ramped post with tritium insert the best shotgun sights I'd ever used. They allowed fast acquisition and accurate shooting with either buckshot or slugs. Far more factory shotguns are available today with ghost ring sights, but those on the Scattergun 870 are still among the best.

Second, it was the first shotgun I had used with a light in the handguard. It immediately became my

bedside shotgun when it wasn't in my vehicle.

It takes a bit of practice to learn where to grip the handguard while operating the pump action to either operate the pressure pad for the light or not operate it, but it quickly becomes instinctual.

Use taught me to appreciate other features, such as the "Jumbo Head" safety, which is much easier to operate than other safeties, especially when wearing gloves.

■ JUST ONE MORE

I didn't foresee getting another Scattergun Technologies shotgun until twelve or so years ago. A friend who was a captain with a sheriff's department outside St. Louis died, and another friend and I bought some of his guns from the widow, including a pair of Scattergun Technologies shotguns.

I took the 18-inch barrel model, while my friend paid the tax and registered the other, which was a short-barrel shotgun with both 12-inch and 14-inch barrels.

The one I purchased is similar to the one I already had, but without the special tight choke. Although I felt that my original Scattergun Technologies 870 would outlast me, I was glad to get a spare.

I have kept one of the two loaded and available in my office for years.

■ OBSERVING FIRST-HAND

A couple of years ago I got a chance to visit Wilson Combat for a writer's event. While there, I made it a point to spend some time in the portion of the shop

devoted to building Scattergun Technologies shotguns.

I watched the work in progress on a couple of 14-inch Scatterguns and asked a few questions. As with all work at Wilson Combat, great care was taken to ensure quality and performance.

Many features of the current 870 are the same as those of my long-serving guns, but there are also some additional options currently offered.

■ SCATTERGUN SMORGASBORD

Four enhanced 870 versions are available from Scattergun Technologies, and since the facility is a custom workshop, customers are free to order whatever enhancements they desire.

THE SURVIVAL STAFF

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▲ A Scattergun Technologies craftsman working on a Remington 870.

⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

SCATTERGUN TECHNOLOGIES STANDARD MODEL

Action: Slide Action

Caliber: 12 Gauge, 3-inch

Overall Length: 38.8 inches

Barrel Length: 18.4 inches,
cylinder bore

Weight: 8 pounds, 9 ounces

Magazine Capacity: 6 rounds

Sights: Trak-Lock rear ghost ring,
ramped post with tritium insert front

Before discussing the four packages, though, I want to mention the basic features typical of Scattergun Technologies 870s.

Parts are polished for smoother operation. This is especially noticeable in the slide action, which is smoother and faster than on factory shotguns.

The bore is smoothed to allow buckshot to fly truer as it leaves the barrel. A stronger magazine spring and a nylon magazine follower enhance feed reliability as well. The new follower is colored neon green so the user can quickly see if any rounds remain in the magazine. When you're under stress, it is very easy to lose count.

For shotguns that don't have an extended magazine, Wilson

adds a two-shot extension.

A feature on many Scattergun Technologies shotguns that was not on either of mine is a four- or six-round sidesaddle shell carrier. Some of the guns also come with a Speedfeed stock for even more spare ammunition.

For a vehicle gun—police or otherwise—extra rounds on the gun are very useful since there may not be time to stuff rounds in the pocket or grab a shotshell belt.

On the other hand, shells carried openly on a patrol car gun may get beat-up. I'd recommend rotating them out frequently.

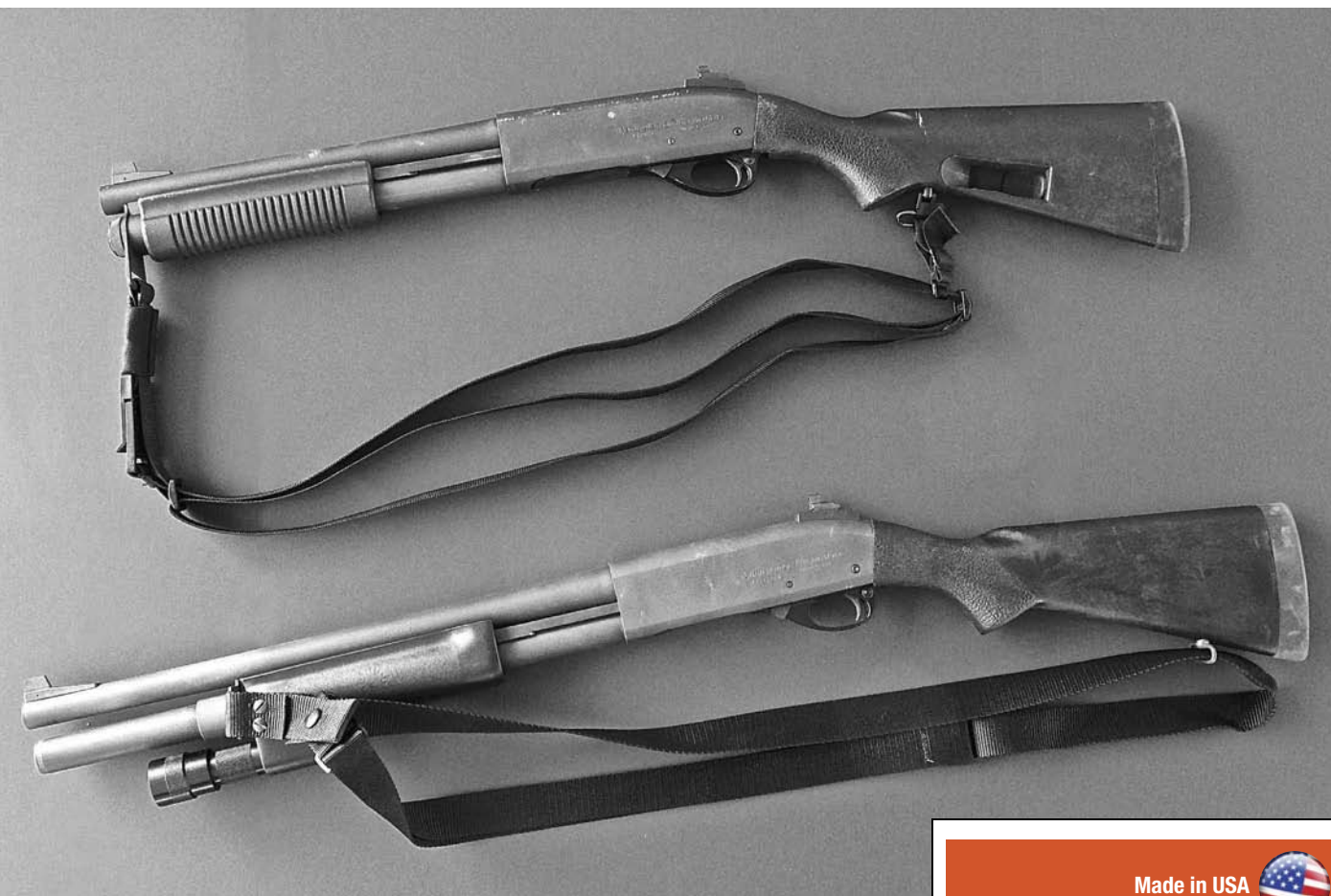
■ VARIETIES

The customer has four models from which to choose:

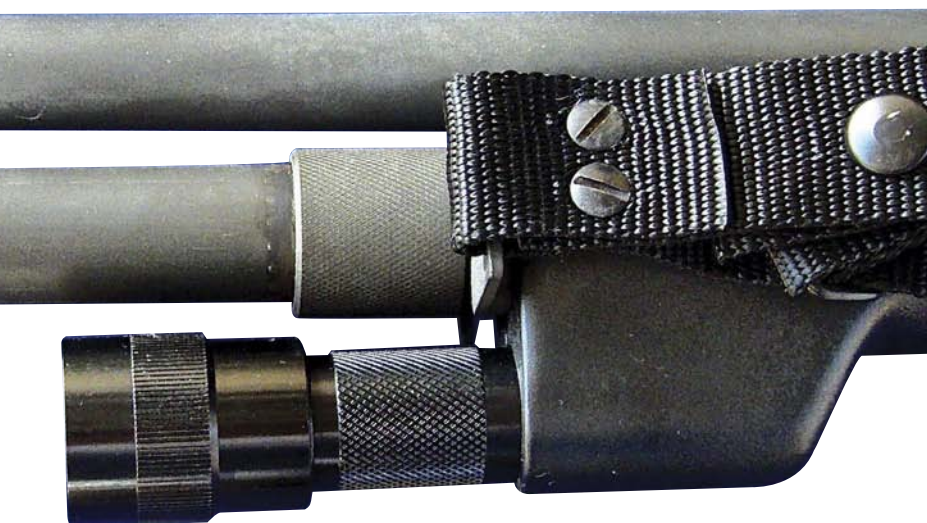
Standard Model: As its name suggests, the Standard Model is the basic model that incorporates the features most users want in a combat shotgun.

Among its features are the heavy duty stainless magazine





▲ At top, 12-inch and at bottom 18-inch Scattergun Technologies shotguns.



▲ Among the features of a Scattergun Technologies shotgun are the extended magazine tube, SureFire forearm light, sling mount and tactical sling.

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▲ The 12-inch barrel shotgun deploys easily from within a vehicle; shorter barrels such as the 12-inch or 14-inch are popular with security teams for this reason.

SCATTERGUN TECHNOLOGIES PERFORMANCE

All Patterns Fired at 15 Yards

12-inch barrel	Winchester Low Recoil 00 Buckshot—9 pellets	16.5 inches
18-inch barrel	Winchester Low Recoil 00 Buckshot—9 pellets	10.0 inches
18-inch barrel	Federal #4 Buckshot—27 pellets	9.0 inches



▲ Brightly colored follower allows a quick check to make sure the magazine tube is empty.



▲ Close-up of the Trak-Lok ghost ring sight, which allows fast engagement but also allows more precise pattern placement at longer ranges.

spring with high visibility non-binding follower, six-round magazine tube, four- or six-round shell carrier, Trak-Lock Rear sight and front Ramp with Tritium insert, SureFire Tactical Forend with light, Speedfeed Buttstock, Jumbo Head Safety, Buttstock Swivel and Rigid Magazine Tube Sling Swivel, and Armor-Tuff Finish.

Border Patrol: This is the model chosen by the U.S. Border Patrol as its standard shotgun. It has most of the features of the Standard Model, except the shell carrier.

Professional Model: This model incorporates the standard Scattergun features but with a 14-inch barrel and five-round magazine capacity. Overall length with a 14-inch barrel is 31.4 inches.

Remington Steal: Rather than a new model, this is a refurbished 870 that was sent in by the customer. Any worn or damaged parts are replaced, the chamber is modified to take 3-inch shells, and the gun's feed system is converted to the Flexi-Tab Anti-Jam System.

A new factory magazine spring and follower are installed, a new Remington synthetic buttstock and foregrip are added, the trigger assembly is replaced, external parts are stripped and parkerized, and the standard safety is replaced with the Jumbo Head Safety.

An 18-inch cylinder bore barrel with 3-inch Magnum chamber is standard on all models of Scattergun shotguns. Shorter barrels are available on the Professional Model short-barrel shotgun. Most common is the 14-inch barrel.

Choice of finish includes black, grey, or green.



▲ Thompson firing the 12-inch ST 870 across a vehicle hood.

SHOT GUNS

I used this assignment as an excuse to take an 18-inch Scattergun Technologies model to the range and asked a friend to bring his 12-inch barrel Scattergun model.

Mostly, I just wanted to remind myself about how smoothly and quickly the Scattergun Technologies' action operated, how easily I could use the Trak-Lock sight, and just how much I enjoyed shooting the guns.

My friend brought along the 14-inch barrel for his short-barrel Scattergun, but I chose to shoot it with the 12-inch barrel, including some engagement drills from a vehicle where the short barrel is invaluable.

In some of the drills from the vehicle, I fired across the hood,

where I practiced my technique with a pump shotgun when resting my support arm on the top of cover.

I've learned that it's more effective and faster to leave the support arm in place and push forward with my shoulder against the stock, then pull back with the shooting hand to cycle the action. The smoothness of the Scattergun action makes this manipulation very quick.

Using both shotguns, I engaged multiple plates at 15 and 25 yards, once again concentrating on operating the safety and the action. Smooth and fast—that's what I expect from a Scattergun Technologies gun, and that's what I got.

I also shot some patterns, which were centered and consistent (see the table on page 50).

Generally, I am satisfied with out of the box combat firearms as long as they work as expected. If I purchase a customized weapon, it's because I believe the work on it enhances it enough to make it a more effective threat-elimination tool.

A Wilson Combat/Scattergun Technologies shotgun is one of the best tools in the business for those who "Protect and Serve." **GW**

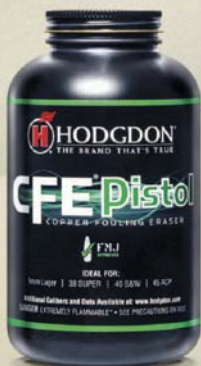
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Birds to

Text & Photos by D.K. Pridgen

HOME DEFENSE

A Bullpup Unlimited conversion kit can help transform your old shotgun into a crime-fighting machine

Defending hearth and home is a serious proposition that we don't take lightly. We defy uninvited visitors to cross our thresholds at their own risk, and proclaim they are likely to expire from brief exposure to a strain of high-velocity lead poisoning.

In theory, a noble goal, but easier said than done.





The Bullpup Unlimited conversion of Mossberg 500 or 590 shotguns yields an excellent fighting shotgun for home defense or law enforcement use.



“ Long guns can be cumbersome when trying to maneuver in the confines of a house full of furniture, especially in the dark.

■ WHICH GUN?

The small size of handguns makes them great for concealed carry and operating in tight spaces. Delivering accurate fire can occasionally be more difficult than it seems, prompting us to find a better firearm to stack the defensive deck in our favor.

Long guns – rifles and shotguns – are obviously larger than handguns, but these guns are significantly more powerful and have more accuracy potential than a pistol or revolver. The downside is long guns can be cumbersome when trying to maneuver in the confines of a house full of furniture, especially in the dark.

The 12-gauge shotgun and AR15 rifle platform are probably the most frequently chosen long guns for defensive use. A typical 18.5-

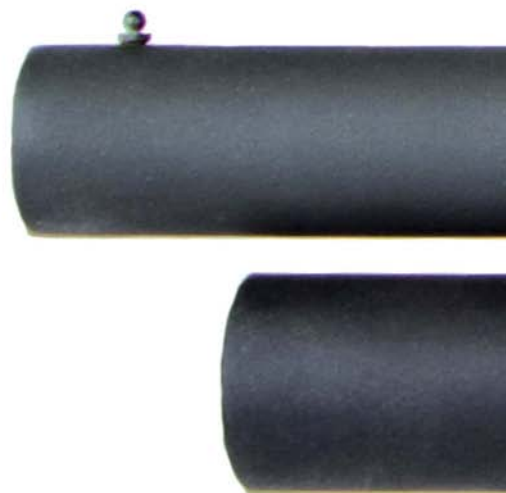
inch-barreled Mossberg 500 pump shotgun with collapsible stock has an overall length (OAL) around 36 inches, and swapping the adjustable buttstock for a pistol grip reduces that length to 28 inches.

The OAL of a 16-inch barreled AR-style rifle with collapsible stock is about 34 inches. A direct gas impingement (DGI) AR pistol with receiver extension (buffer tube) and 10-inch barrel shrinks to about 27 inches, and a piston-driven AR pistol's length is around 20 inches.

So, the pistol grip equipped shotgun, DGI AR pistol and piston-driven AR pistol seem to be the best choices size-wise; however, all three are difficult to shoot well without a great deal of training and practice – in fact, you have to shoot the pistol grip shotgun from the hip.

If you try aim a pistol grip shot-

▲ The full-length upper rail allows the user to mount a variety of optics/sights/aiming devices. Note the Magpul Angled Vertical Grip on the slide.



gun by sighting down the barrel, the recoil is sufficient to embed the sporty pistol grip in your cranium.

What if we could shrink a fully stocked Mossberg 500/590 series pump shotgun to about the same length as its pistol grip cousin? What if this shotgun-shrinking conversion kit made the gun more effective for home defense and looked cool doing it?

Finally, we'd need the transformation to be straightforward, with no special tools or gunsmithing required. In other words, we need to look at a Bullpup Unlimited kit.

■ SOMETIMES SHORTER IS BETTER

Bullpup Unlimited is the brainchild of retired Kentucky State Police Officer J.J. Hunter. He told me while serving as a trooper he looked for something that would better equip law enforcement officers



▲ A number of aftermarket AR grips can be used on the BPU-500.



▲ Nordic Components' +1 extension is precision built and includes one of their mag tube springs.



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“The bullpup configuration handles well with most weight between the hands.”

▲ An integral shell deflector prevents spent shotshells from being a problem for left-handed shooters.

SPECIFICATIONS

BULLPUP UNLIMITED BPU-500 CONVERSION KIT AND MOSSBERG 590A1

Caliber: 12 gauge

Barrel: 18.5 inches

Length: 28.5 inches

Weight: 7.85 pounds

Stock: Fixed

Sights: None; optics-ready with
integral rail on top

Action: Pump

Finish: Matte Black

Capacity: 6+1 (With Nordic Components +1 extension)

MSRP: \$359 (Kit only)

(LEOs), especially when working in confined spaces.

Influenced by his fascination with the concept of the bullpup design (receiver and mechanicals situated aft of the trigger/grip), upon retiring Hunter decided a bullpup was just the ticket and set about building one.

He wanted to convert a firearm abundant at most law enforcement (LE) agencies, a gun that was inexpensive and probably scarred from riding in patrol cars. The short list was Remington's 870 or Mossberg's 500/590 family.

Fate pushed the Remington 870 forward to become JJ's first bullpup conversion—BPU-870. I don't know how many BPU-870 kits Bullpup Unlimited has sold, but Hunter seems to always be filling or shipping boxes with BPU-870s.

Capitalizing on the success of the BPU-870, Hunter found time somewhere to work on the Moss-

berg 500 conversion. Most of the ideas used in the BPU-870 were incorporated into the BPU-500, with minor changes to adapt the Bullpup Unlimited kit to Mossberg's operating system.

BPU-500 CONVERSION FINER POINTS

I chose the BPU-500 on Mossberg's 590A1 with a smooth-top barrel and a 5-shot tubular magazine. Conversion kits are 28 inches long not including any barrel protrusion, keeping the bullpup above the NFA mandate.

It is 2.75 inches thick, and weighs 2.2 pounds, parts only. The furniture removed from the 590A1 weighed 1.6 pounds, leaving 5.65 pounds behind. Adding the kit's weight totals 7.85 pounds, a net increase of just 0.6 pounds over the shotgun's starting weight.

Bullpup Unlimited (BPU) kits are comprised of matte black rein-

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RIFLE SHOWN: IC-A5

CALIBER: 5.56 NATO

BARREL: 10.5", 12.7", 14.7", 16.1"

WEIGHT: 7.0 LBS (16.1")

LENGTH: 26-29" / 32-35.25"

MUZZLE THREADS: 1/2X28 TPI

RIFLING: 1/7" RH

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▲ The BPU's "safety trigger" is a split trigger that can only be operated by depressing both trigger halves simultaneously. Note the generous trigger guard.

BPU CONVERSION OF MOSSBERG 590A1 PERFORMANCE

Load	Pattern (Inches at 15 yards)
Hornady 8 pellet 00 buck, Pump Reduced	8.15
Winchester 8 pellet 00 buck, Ranger LE reduced Recoil	9.50
Speer 8 pellets 00 buck, Lawman	8.50
Load	3-Shot Group (Inches at 25 yards)
Federal 1 oz rifled slug, tactical LE, reduced recoil	3.00
Remington 1 oz rifled slug, LE reduced recoil	4.25
Winchester 1 ounce slug, Ranger reduced recoil	3.75



▲ The Mossberg 590A1's loading port is easy to use even when in the BPU-500 Kit. Note the bright red Nordic Components follower.



▲ A nice touch is that the two hex wrenches needed to field strip the bullpup are stored in the end cap ready to use.

forced composite components. Don't like black? You can paint the parts any color you like, no problem.

BPU supplies all installation tools used on the conversion, but you'll need a couple on-hand tools to disassemble and remove the furniture from the donor gun.

Instructions are simple enough to make the job quick and easy. Two hex wrenches supplied for conversion kit installations are stored under the rear end cap (recoil pads attached) for field stripping.

Because the original barreled action assembly now resides in the

BPU-500's buttstock, a transfer rod extends rearward from the BPU's trigger to the shotgun's trigger.

The loading port is on the bottom, behind the pistol grip. Slightly further back on the left side of the buttstock is the action lock/slide release button.

The pistol grip is an A2 AR-style, and is easily removable for aftermarket grip upgrades. A two-piece Split Safety Trigger and an AR-style thumb safety lever prevent accidental discharges.

Left-handed shooters will appreciate the ejection port shell de-

flector that redirects empty cases away from the facial area.

Lights, sights and lasers are easily fasted to the BPU-500. An integral Picatinny rail runs across the BPU's top, 2.5-inch rail sections attached to either side of the forend, and a 5.5-inch rail screws into the bottom of the ribbed slide.

Speaking of the ribbed slide, the forward end of the slide features an oversized flange to keep the operator's hand from slipping off the slide and into harm's way in front of the muzzle.

Two sling mount slots are in the rail riser on the BPU near muzzle and receiver; in the comb near the butt is a third.

A set of polymer sling mounting tabs makes sling installation quick and easy.

■ FINISHING TOUCHES

Whether you're a homeowner or an LEO, defensive shotguns should be stored ready for action — hammer down on an empty chamber. For a home defense shotgun, a few additions to the BPU-500 are needed: Nordic Components +1 extension with spring and anodized alloy follower, a compact red-dot sight and a foregrip.

A vertical foregrip or angled foregrip provides extra leverage to ensure slide strokes are positive and complete in both directions. A Magpul Angled Fore Grip almost completed my package.

I added a rugged Streamlight M6X light/laser unit, with its Rail Grabber interface to one of the short pieces of rail. The momentary paddle switch was easy to reach without removing my hand from the slide.



■ PATTERNS AND PERFORMANCE

Equipped for home defense, with a low-mounted new Aimpoint T2 optic, the BPU-500-converted 590 went to the range. Buckshot patterns and slug groups were quickly completed (8.2-9.5 inches, and an average of 3.7 inches respectively; typical cylinder bore shotgun) and I moved to working with the BPU.

The bullpup configuration handles well with most weight between the hands. The extra weight the kit adds helps with the recoil, as does the generous recoil pad.

The Angled Fore Grip worked as planned with the forend snapping back and forth with authority and no malfunctions.

Moving from target to target, near and out to 15 yards, working around walls and other barriers, the BPU-500/590A1 proved its worth time and time again.

I concentrated on mastering the reload. I can't say I did completely, but I found that driving the shotgun forward, pulling the recoil pad off my shoulder and sliding it up my arm improved success. I sus-

▲ The Streamlight M6X light/laser unit fits well on a forward rail section.

pect someone with a less generous physique could reach the loading gate without moving the butt.

Releasing the slide requires the shooting hand slipping back and pressing the release, while the support hand manipulates the forend.

■ LAST SHOTS

Are there any problems with the BPU-500 kit that need correcting? I had no issues, although it'd be nice to design a place to attach an aftermarket shell holder for those of us who like having more ammunition than necessary.

I found the BPU-500 an excellent shotgun configuration for working in close quarters as well as open areas. It balances very well between the hands, providing quick target acquisition, excellent accuracy, and threat-stopping firepower. What else could you ask for from a defensive firearm? **GW**

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Rocky cliff areas near food sources can harbor populations of harvest-ready feral pigeons.



The Eternal *WING SHOOTER*

Text & Photos by Thomas C. Tabor

**Secrets to sustained bird hunting
long after game bird seasons are over**

For as long as I've been a bird hunter, I've always dreaded the last day of bird hunting season.

To delay the inevitable, usually I'll make a meandering late day pass through a corn stubble field hoping to kick up just one more rooster on my way back to the truck and the official end of another game bird season.



▲ Pigeons love the farm life – plenty of food, dry and protected roosting accommodations and few predators, and, of course, rent-free. I'll bet if you went in the barn and looked up, the rafters would be full of freeloading pigeons.

SEASON STRETCHER

If you are willing to exercise a little creativity, you can feasibly continue wing shooting well beyond the end of state and federal bird hunting seasons – without going to jail.

For those hunters that have a desire to extend their shooting, there is a way to keep on exercising their shotguns and expending bird shot on live birds year-round.

Throughout the country, feral, non-indigenous and nuisance bird species abound. Because these foul fowl aren't classified as game birds, traditional hunting regulations typically don't apply; rather, shooting the undesirable and nuisance birds is often considered a form of pest control quietly encouraged in heavily affected areas.



▲ Pigeons can cause great health risks to humans and strive to encase the planet in excrement – the upside is they provide great skill-sharpening opportunities for the off-season wing shooter.

SPECIES PROFILING

Birds like the European or English starling, feral or rock pigeon and the Eurasian collared-dove are non-indigenous misfits.

Crows and magpies are native to our fair country, but tend to create trouble to the point that actively hunting them is fair sport in dozens of isolated locales. This can only be done within guidelines determined by the local communities.

Non-game birds you might be able to harvest fall into two distinct categories: those that resist calling and decoying, and the birds you can call in and shoot over decoys.

Crows and Eurasian doves would fall into this latter category and feral pigeons might fly closer to check out your decoy spreads – if you're lucky.

Unfortunately, those methods clearly do not apply to starlings; and it will take a lot of fragrant carrion to tempt magpies. Better off to employ a laying in wait approach and nail the birds on their way to an important meeting.

POPPING PIGEONS

Feral pigeons are a monumental problem in many areas, both in this country and overseas. Pigeons are carriers of diseases that can cause serious illness and potentially life-threatening complications to the health of human beings.

Pigeons also devour a tremendous amount of grain and other crops, depositing a generous trail of excrement sufficiently caustic to remove paint and stimulate corrosion in metal structures and accelerate decay to canvas covers.

As a result, millions of dol-

lars are spent each year in a futile effort to eradicate the destruction associated with pigeons. While pillars of society are enacting legislation to address feral fowl issues, off-season bird hunters are taking a proactive approach by eliminating the birds eye-to-eye.

In Europe, hunters frequently use pigeon decoys to lure their quarry into range, but here in the US, actual pigeon decoys are about as hard to find as any excess hair follicles growing on top of my own head. MOJO Outdoors offers a few pigeon-like decoys that seem to resemble their dove decoy line, ingeniously rebranded as pigeon decoys.

Rather than decoying, the most common method of pigeon hunting here in the United States involves patterning the birds' movements, then laying in wait as they move about their daily routine.

I have had a certain amount of luck doing so, but I have also been quite successful walking them up

COMMON SENSE DISCLAIMER

It is solely your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations, laws and obscure rules pertaining to the harvesting of non-game birds.

If you do something stupid and get locked up for emptying your fancy smoothbore on a citizen's parakeet, or capping pigeons in the town square, you're on your own; there's nothing we can do for you.

around rocky cliff areas and then shooting them as they flush from their resting areas.

Outside of that, productive shooting areas can be wherever grain is present, including around railcars and trucks that have dropped a portion of their load, and also near barns and feedlots.

The secret here is to be observant and watch for the flight patterns of the birds, then match those movements to the time of day and your own method of hunting them. And don't shoot the railcars or trucks in the process.



▲ The Eurasian collar-dove is about one-and-a-half times as large as a mourning dove and has a well-pronounced black ring around the back of its neck. These distinctive characteristics can help a hunter positively identify the potential target.



▲ Starling shooting can be great fun and has a positive impact on our ecosystem.

dekes within the bird's flight path can greatly improve your chances of being successful.

■ CROWS

Even though the crow is indigenous in North America, they're often branded a nuisance species waiting to be hunted.

Crow calls and decoys can be used to increase your odds of success, but equally important is patterning the bird flights in an effort to waylay them as they fly to or from their feeding areas.

A small decoy spread consisting of three or four faux crows and maybe a lone owl decoy may coax the birds into shooting range.

The crow's eyesight is phenomenally acute, so it's crucial that the shooter hides in adequate cover and doesn't move a muscle until it's time to jump up and shoot.

Recently harvested grain fields are great places to find crows feasting on the bits of grain left behind by the machines. Get permission in advance to hunt farm fields and make sure the harvesting crew is gone before you even think about uncasing a gun.

■ EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES

The Eurasian collared-doves are not indigenous to the US and unlike most other dove species, they do not normally migrate in the traditional manner. That fact can work favorably for the off-season wing shooter.

Being a feral species, in several areas of the country they can be hunted year-round and without too many legal constraints. The Eurasian collared-dove shares many similarities with the mourning dove, including their daily flight patterns, habitat requirements, diet,

general appearance and typical hunting methods.

The difference in coloration between the mourning dove and the Eurasian dove primarily consists of the well-pronounced black band around the back of the neck of the Eurasian. In addition, a Eurasian dove is roughly 50% larger than a mourning dove, so it's tough to confuse the two in decent light.

Like all types of dove hunting, it is imperative that the hunter stays hidden and well camouflaged. Calling is not a common practice in dove hunting, but decoying can be quite beneficial. A few well-placed

■ EUROPEAN STARLINGS

There is no better example of a real nuisance bird species than the European or English starling. It is believed that the starling was first brought to New York and released into our country in the late 1800s, and from there they quickly spread coast to coast.

Ironically, the individual responsible for this dastardly deed was said to want to introduce all of the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's writings into the US.

The starlings consume great

amounts of food that the native species rely on for their survival. They also harass other birds and disrupt their nesting habits, sometimes invading the nests to devour the eggs, in some cases even laying their own eggs for the surrogate mother to hatch.

Because today's enormous numbers of starlings are also poop factories, they leave behind huge quantities of disease-laden feces that can be injurious to man.

The starlings do migrate in some areas, seeking warmer climates during the winter. In moderate weather, the number of birds may remain constant year-round. During the migration, huge flocks numbering in the thousands execute intricate aerobatic maneuvers as one seamless squadron, without collisions, mechanical failures or pilot-error crash landings.

Unfortunately, I don't know of any way to lure the starlings into shotgun range. They do not seem to respond to any type of calling and if decoying did work for you, you would likely have to make and deploy hundreds of decoys to lure a flock in. Moot point – starlings aren't suckers for decoys.

Starling hunters are advised to actually hunt, that is, observe the quarry and ambush the targets when they least suspect it.

The good news is that starlings are restless birds that take to wing frequently, a characteristic that can easily work in your favor. And it seems that as the wind increases their compulsion to fly around for a while only seems to increase.

These are small birds, so it makes sense that small shot sizes of #9 and #8 seem to work the best. Urban legend has it that

open chokes can sometimes enhance your opportunities for multi-kills with a single pull of the trigger. Right.

A word of caution may be called for here, though. It is all too easy to fall prey to a flock-shooting mentality when you have literally hundreds of birds blackening the sky overhead, but if you try to shoot them all you're likely to miss them all. Concentrate on picking out a single bird and if your pattern spreads to others in the flock – so be it.

■ THE WAY I SEE IT

With the exception of the Eurasian collared-dove, which is pretty much on par table-wise to the indigenous dove species, most of these birds aren't what I would view as being worthy of the dinner table.

Nevertheless, off-season hunting comes with substantial benefit for the wing shooter. Outside of the fact that it gets you away from the TV set and out in the field more often, it will likely improve your shooting abilities when it comes to hunting real game birds.

If you're so inclined, you can pat yourself on the back for doing a good thing for the natural environment by reducing the unwanted avian population.

GW

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LOADING the Versatile 22-250 Remington

Text & Photos by James E. House

Small bullet in a big case
equals crazy fast accuracy



For many years, experimenters have entertained themselves by modifying existing cartridges, expanding the neck of a cartridge case to hold a larger diameter bullet or squeezing in the case neck to hold a smaller diameter bullet, just to see what happens.

These “necking up” and “necking down” operations occasionally produce a custom cartridge with desirable and marketable performance characteristics.

In rare instances, firearm and ammunition manufacturers “legitimize” the custom cartridge by adding it to their respective product lines. One of the most famous situations of this type involves the cartridge now known as the 22-250 Remington.



Powders having medium burning rates are most appropriate for loading the 22-250.



▲ Load testing was conducted with a Savage Axis having a 3-9X Leupold Vari-X II scope attached.

ORIGINALLY

Like many other cartridges, the 22-250 Remington is the result of changing the neck diameter of another cartridge. The parent cartridge was originally known as the 250-3000 Savage, with the name denoting the velocity of the load utilizing an 87-grain bullet.

Actually, there have been several versions of the cartridge as a result of slightly different shoulder angle or some other dimension. One version was “officially” known as the 22-250 Varminter with the name being copyrighted by Captain Grosvenor Wotkins and J.E. Gebby.

EFFECTIVELY

Although Browning produced 22-250 rifles earlier, Remington made it a factory cartridge in 1967. I knew of the cartridge a decade prior to that due to an older shooting buddy having a fascination for the cartridge.

The 22-250 Remington is essentially the 250 Savage case necked down to hold a bullet of 0.224-inch diameter. The case offers about as much capacity as can be used effectively because of the large volume/bore diameter. The cartridge case has a greater volume than the immensely popular 223 Remington and it is invariably compared to the 220 Swift.



There is no question regarding the 22-250 Remington as a varmint cartridge; however, questions do arise about its suitability for game as large as deer or antelope. Several states require a minimum of a

0.243 caliber cartridge for taking deer, but where it is legal to do so, the 22-250 can be a very effective deer round when appropriate bullets are chosen.



▲ Originally known as the 22-250 Varminter, Remington standardized the 22-250 as a factory cartridge in 1967.



▲ Bullets in 0.224-inch diameter abound. Those utilized in this project are (left to right) the 40- and 50-grain Hornady V-Max, 50-grain Barnes Varminator, 52-grain Speer HPBT, 55-grain Hornady spitzer, 55-grain Sierra BlitzKing, and 60-grain Hornady spitzer.

POWDERS

Because of the case capacity being rather generous for a 0.224-inch bore, powders having medium burning rates work best in the 22-250 Remington. Suitable propellants include Hodgdon Varget, IMR 4064 and 4320, Winchester 748, and Alliant AR Comp. Other powders work well, but I chose these for this project.

All powder charges were weighed on a Berry's electronic balance. New Remington cases trimmed to 1.902-inches and Winchester large rifle primers were used in loading the cartridges.

LOAD TESTS

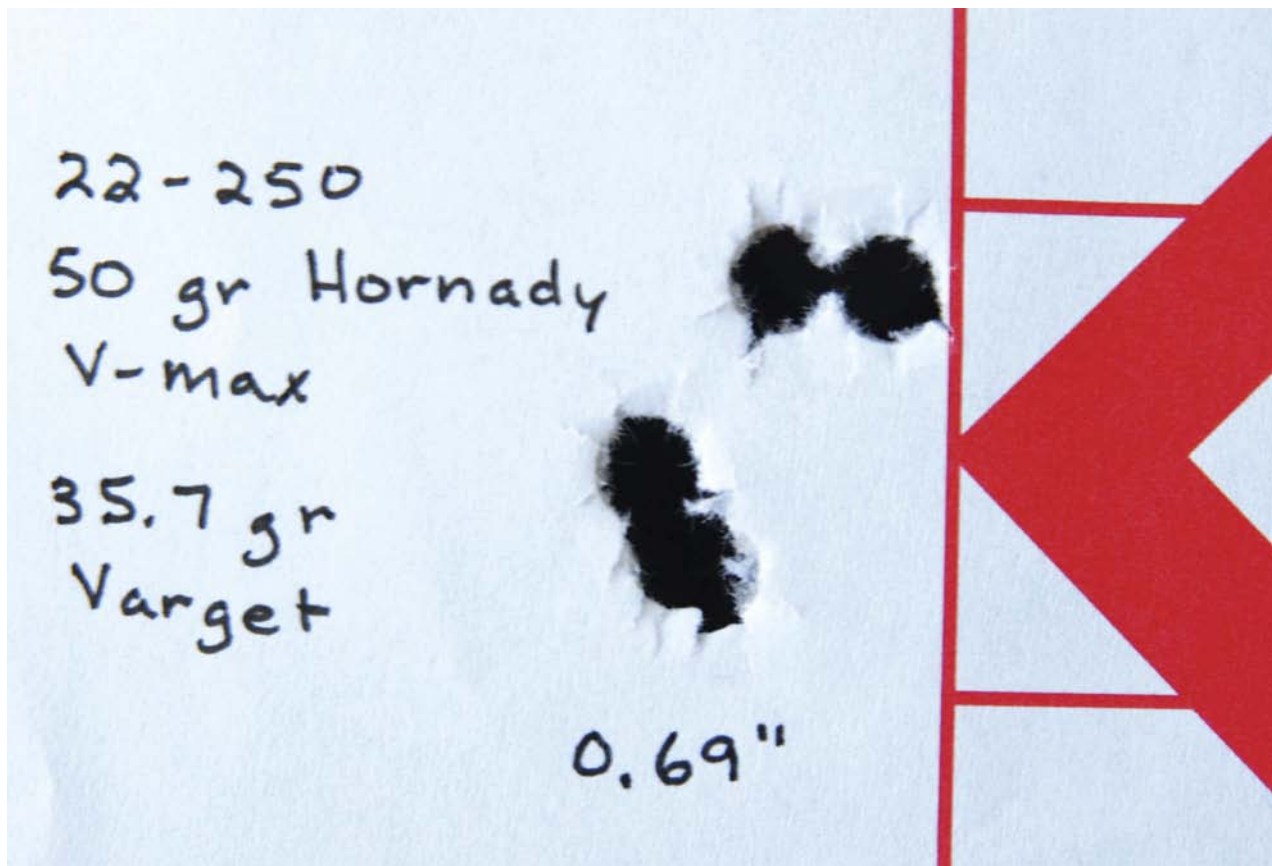
The loads were tested in a Savage Axis 22-250 rifle sighted through a 3-9X Leupold scope. Velocities were measured at 10 feet from the muzzle of the 22-inch barrel with a Competition Electronics ProChrono chronograph.

During testing, the Savage Axis performed with no issues in loading or chambering rounds. Moreover, the rifle, which cost me less than \$300, displayed good accuracy for an inexpensive rifle that has a heavy trigger pull.

Of the 11 loads tested, only three failed to put four of the five shots in less than one inch at 100 yards. No attempts were made to adjust the loads to try to achieve best accuracy.

I had rather expected that some of the heavier bullets would show better accuracy, but the smallest groups were obtained with 40-grain and 50-grain bullets. Of course, the situation might be reversed with a different rifle.

Perhaps it is just my luck, but the 40-grain and 50-grain Hornady



▲ A load consisting of the 50-grain Hornady V-Max and 35.7-grains of Hodgdon Varget produced this excellent group.

RESULTS OBTAINED USING 22-250 REMINGTON LOADS IN A SAVAGE AXIS, 22" BARREL

Bullet	Length, in.	Powder	Charge, gr	Velocity, ft/sec	Group, in. (5/4)
40 gr Hornady V-Max	2.350	Varget	38.0	3964	0.72/0.52
50 gr Hornady V-Max	2.350	Varget	35.7	3626	0.69/0.61
50 gr Hornady V-Max	2.350	AR Comp	34.2	3613	1.14/0.81
50 gr Hornady V-Max	2.346	Win. 748	35.5	3526	1.06/0.56
50 gr Barnes Varminator	2.340	Varget	35.7	3659	1.26/0.90
50 gr Sierra BlitzKing	2.335	Win. 748	34.5	3526	1.91/1.12
52 gr Speer HPBT	2.346	IMR 4064	35.0	3563	1.55/0.69
52 gr Speer HPBT	2.340	Win. 748	33.4	3433	1.21/1.09
55 gr Hornady Spitzer	2.344	IMR 4064	34.5	3495	1.70/0.29
55 gr Sierra BlitzKing	2.344	IMR 4320	34.5	3531	1.25/0.97
60 gr Hornady Spitzer	2.342	IMR 4064	33.5	3352	1.68/1.05

Average velocity is for at least five shots. Group sizes are given for all five-shots/best four shots.

These loads were safe and reliable in the author's rifle, but neither the author nor the publisher accepts any responsibility for their preparation and use by others. These loads should be approached with caution.

CONTACT

Alliant Powder
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V-Max bullets have given outstanding accuracy in both my Axis rifles in 223 Remington and 22-250 Remington. With any of the first four loads listed in the table, my entry-level Savage Axis would prove to be a varmint-destroying machine.

■ GO-TO VARMINT GETTER

The 22-250 Remington is, as it

has been for many years, one of the premier varmint cartridges. It could be pressed into use on somewhat larger game such as deer or antelope, but it's at its best when used for long range sniping of smaller critters, which is precisely why it was developed as the 22-250 Varminter long ago. **GW**

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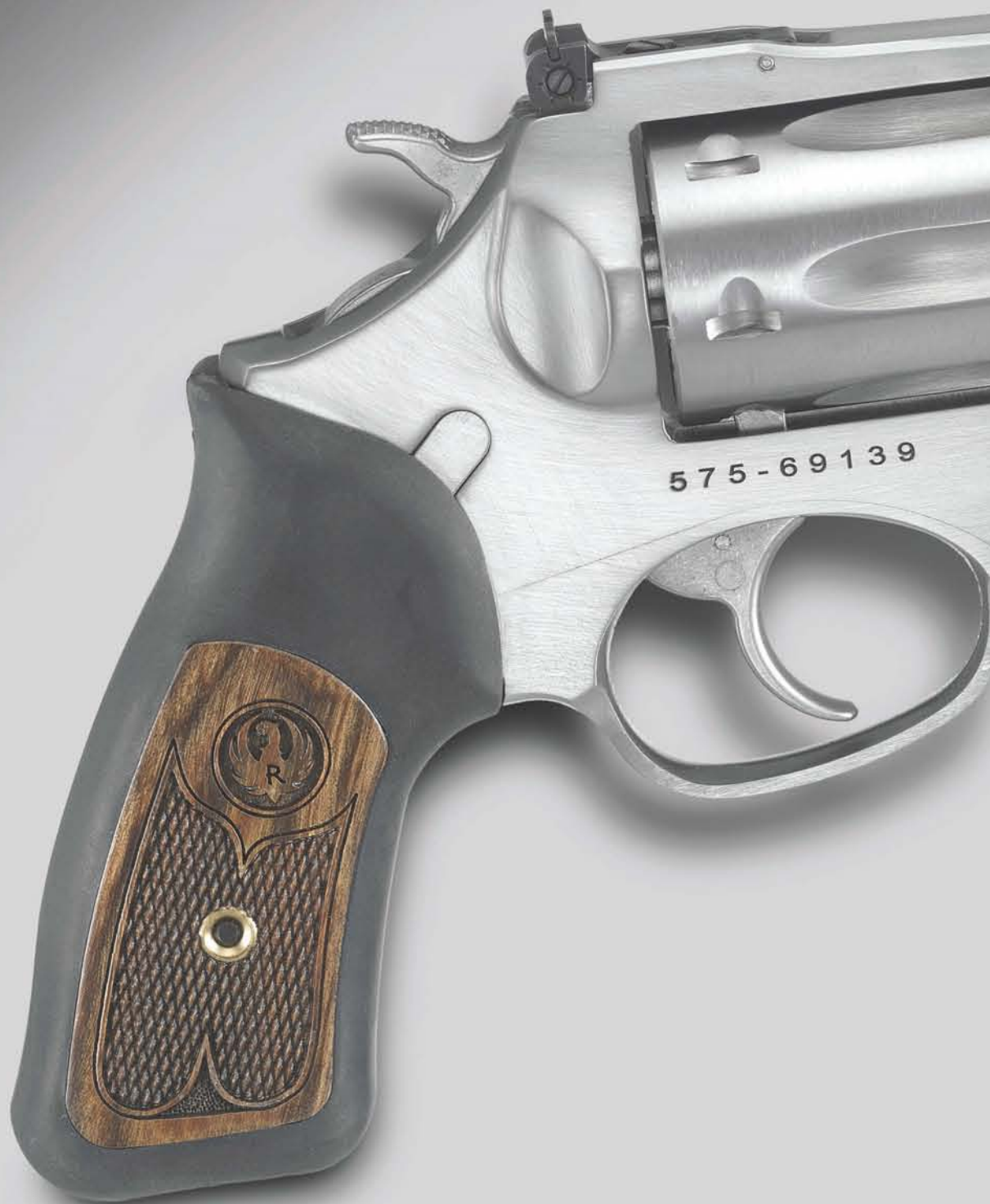
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HANDGUNS



Revolvers, such as this recently upgraded SP101 from Ruger, are practical for seniors as they are easy to operate and all one needs to make them work is loose ammunition, or a good speed loader.



Retirement *GUNS*

Text & Photos by Dave Workman

**All of us look forward to hanging it up,
and some of us are planning ahead!**

Ah, retirement.

Every day is a Saturday. If you did nothing yesterday, you can do it again today because you probably weren't finished.

Don't you look forward to it?

But it's not all relaxing on the porch while the servants bring out the cold shrimp and beer. Say someone wants to buy a motor home and tour the country, visiting spots in Second Amendment-friendly environments such as Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Montana with their rugged, magnificent scenery along with creatures that bite. Chances are you may want to have a firearm along.



Workman says a J-frame S&W like this Model 442 is also a good option for people who want a compact handgun chambered in .38 Special.

Or maybe you just want to live without fear as you walk in your own neighborhood, going about your business as you have done all your life.

Having been born well into the last century, it has crossed my mind a few times about what I may wish to carry into the “golden years” besides about 20 pounds of unwelcome weight that I keep trying to lose. Many folks will simply stick with what they do now, but others may be re-thinking things.

One of my pals is a retired sheriff's deputy for whom I've knocked together a few holsters over the years. Not so long ago, he declared that he typically just carries a .38 Special revolver. His most recent acquisition was an older, but beautifully refinished, K-frame snubby. This is a guy who has carried other

guns, including a .45 auto, during his career.

I have more frequently been packing around a 4-inch Colt Diamondback in an IWB rough-out rig I built, and that goes with me on evening walks. While my neighborhood has been getting more populated, there are still coyotes about, and it would not be surprising to spot a cougar. In recent years, black bears have been encountered with increasing frequency, an unintended consequence of the vote several years ago to ban cougar and bear hunting with hounds.

On other occasions, I might just holster my 2 1/2-inch Model 19 S&W, an accurate .357 Magnum recently discussed in these pages in recognition of that model's 60th anniversary. I also happen to own a J-frame S&W Model 442 in .38 Special.



"Hang on a second," you may say, "These are all...revolvers! Has Workman lost his marbles? Isn't he aware that many a mall ninja thinks you need a modern self-loader, at least two spare magazines and a backup gun just to hit the local supermarket?"

Look, it is an unpleasant fact of life that as we age, many of us lose the muscle strength and dexterity to work a semi-auto as we might have 20 years ago. We can't turn back the clock, and if we want to keep it moving forward through an awful moment when we really need a defensive sidearm, making a necessary adjustment to hardware isn't all that silly a notion.

Over the years, I've found that many people who may not be able to handle a semi-auto have very little trouble with wheelguns. Re-

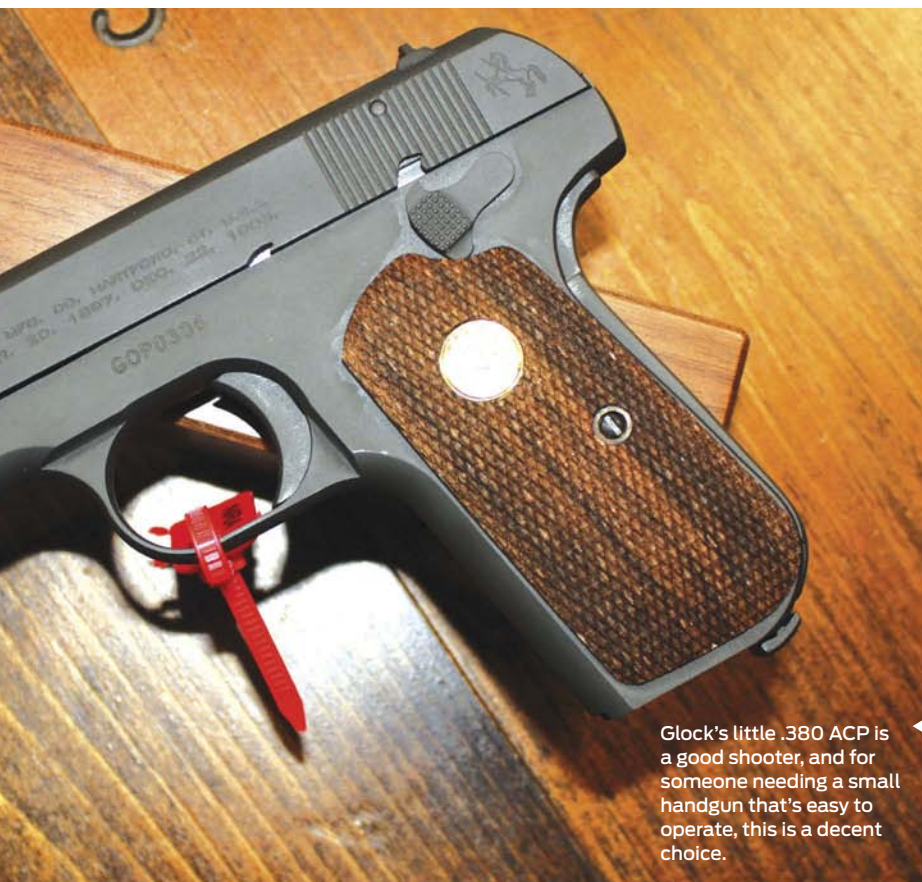
volvers are simple to operate, one needn't worry about a jam, and all you need to make them work is loose ammunition.

Pair one up with a speed loader or speed strip and you've got yourself a formidable defensive handgun.

■ MAKING CHOICES

There are lots of very good choices out there, from S&W, Taurus, Ruger, Charter Arms and Rossi, and there are loads of used revolvers typically adorning the display cases of local gun shops or gun shows. What you should buy depends on a few things: Your needs, your preferences, and your budget.

In early April, Ruger announced that the popular SP101 revolver is back in .327 Federal



Glock's little .380 ACP is a good shooter, and for someone needing a small handgun that's easy to operate, this is a decent choice.



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▲ This Taurus is chambered for the .44 Special and it's plenty of gun for making that senior trip.

Magnum. This model has a 4.2-inch barrel, adjustable rear sight, fiber optic front sight and rubber grip with checkered hardwood inserts. That's about the same barrel length as my Diamondback, and it is certain to get every bit of performance out of the cartridge.

The .327 Federal is a sizzler, with manageable recoil. It's got more horsepower than the .32 H&R Magnum and far more than a .32 ACP. The SP101 is a double-action wheelgun of modern design that, in my experience, is totally reliable.

Ruger originally offered the SP101 in this caliber back in 2008, but this version is a snazzy upgrade. Done in stainless steel, it has the

same advantage of the .357 Magnum that chambers the .38 Special, in that the .327-caliber revolver will also accommodate the .32 H&R Magnum. The new SP101 version weighs 29.5 ounces.

For those preferring more traditional cartridges, there are so many .38 Special models that one cannot list them all in this space. The advantage to these handguns is that ammunition can be found virtually anywhere on the map.

Likewise with the .357 Magnum revolvers, and for those who can handle the stout recoil of these small fire-breathers, they just might be the best choice for carry during the retirement years.

About two years ago in these pages, I reviewed a dandy little Taurus snubby with fixed sights chambered for the .44 Special. Say what you will about that round, it's a known fight stopper and even moreso with modern ammunition. The muzzle flash from that little five-shooter was enough to scare the bejeezus out of somebody in a low-light situation.

The legendary Charter Arms Bulldog is a .44, and I've never heard of one failing. For close work of a defensive nature, this handgun/cartridge combo has saved the day more than once. Done in stainless steel, the Charter Arms revolver is budget-friendly and well built.



▲ Ruger's LC9s is a pocket-sized pistol that's easy to take anywhere.

COLT ANNOUNCES SPECIAL RUN OF MODEL 1903

No sooner had I written that nostalgia piece about the Colt Models 1903 and 1908 last month than Colt revealed, at the NRA convention in April, that it will be introducing a special edition of the 1903 this summer. Most of these guns will feature a matte finish that looks like Parkerizing, but there will be some available in deep blue or nickel, just like the originals.

I had a chance to examine a display specimen, and it's a real dandy. The one I looked at had checkered hardwood grips, a very good trigger, and low profile sights, which I think are the only drawbacks of this otherwise very practical concealed carry piece. Don't worry about the caliber. Today's selection of .32 ACP factory loads is far more diverse than 110 years ago.

I learned that in about 18 months, there may also be a .380 ACP model unveiled, and I've got to admit, the prospect has me salivating.

Sure, there were published reports of this gun on the horizon back in January following the annual SHOT Show in Las Vegas, but I wanted to see something besides Internet reports. I was impressed, and you will be, too!



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▲ Sturm, Ruger introduced an exposed hammer version of their lightweight .38 Special LCR with a 3-inch barrel and adjustable rear sight.

Indeed, in many if not most cases, revolvers are much easier on the budget than a semi-auto. For people living on a retirement income, every dollar is important, and a small investment in a small revolver can pay off big in terms of personal security.

■ SEMI-AUTOS STILL VIABLE

Just because I'm being dragged into those later years — kicking and screaming, and maybe with a bit of gunsmoke in the air — I'm still not quite ready to completely abandon my trusty Colt Lightweight Commander. Still, a wheelgun — as I noted above — makes a lot of sense for retirees.

I've even toyed with the idea of finding a good Sheriff's Model sin-

gle-action in .45 Colt, but so far I haven't been able to grovel enough to the folks at Sturm, Ruger to introduce one. And I've also been shopping around for a used Model 57 S&W in .41 Magnum with a 4-inch barrel, but considering the price some folks are asking for these guns, I won't be able to retire and afford one.

But, for those who want to stick with a semi-auto, there are lots of good choices. I like the little .380-caliber pistols from Glock, Sig Sauer, Colt and, of course, the Walther PPK.

There are even subcompact 9mm pistols that are fairly easy to use from Ruger, Kel-Tec and just about every other manufacturer, including a new model from Heckler

& Koch, the P30SK. Introduced at the NRA exhibition in Nashville, Tennessee, this new H&K model carries 11 rounds, and is under 6.5 inches OAL. It's got interchangeable backstraps and lateral grip panels, allowing individual users to tailor the pistol to their individual hands. There are various trigger pull options as well. I'll be reviewing the P30SK in an upcoming issue.

What we all must keep in perspective is that if our dexterity begins to fade, we've still got options that will assure we are not left defenseless. Seasoned citizens who have survived this long didn't accomplish that by being stupid or unprepared, and now is the time to plan ahead for living those golden years without worry. **GW**

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GUNSMITHING



With the barrel secured in the padded vise, pull and wiggle the stock until it separates from the barreled action.

A person wearing a green shirt and a black watch is working on a rifle stock in a workshop. The stock is held in a red vise. The background is a yellow pegboard with various tools hanging on it. The title 'Spot Bedding a WOOD RIFLE STOCK (Continued)' is overlaid on the image in white and yellow text.

Spot Bedding *a WOOD RIFLE* *STOCK* (Continued)

Text & Photos by Steve Sieberts

Previously, we prepped the wood stock for spot bedding by scraping off the clear polyurethane in the areas we wanted to fill in, blocked and masked those places we didn't want to fill, and coated the barreled action with release agents.

Finally, we ended our session by mixing the two-part epoxy bedding compound, tooling it into the stock cavity, and temporarily fastening the barreled action to the stock to properly form the bedding compound.



▲ If it won't come off by wiggling, hold the gun as shown and bring the barrel down onto the padded bench with a little bit of force. It should pop up out of the stock.

BREAKING UP

To get the rifle apart, remove the stockmaker's screws and put the rifle barrel into a padded vise with the bottom of the rifle facing you. Work the stock off the barreled action by pulling the buttstock and forearm toward you, and then wiggle the stock until it separates from the action.

Go easy; if you've put enough release agent on it should be a snug fit and come off with just a little bit of wiggling.

If this method doesn't work, we



▲ A fine spot bedding job – no pinholes, voids or air pockets. This will clean up nicely, and really add to the accuracy and consistency of the rifle.



▲ The Shilen barrel comes ready to be fitted and has an 11-degree target crown perfectly machined at the muzzle.



▲ The Shilen pre-threaded and short-chambered stainless barrel, when combined with a solid bedding job, a good stock, excellent trigger and good handloads, will deliver a real tack driver at the range.

can switch to a more direct approach. Hold the rifle at the low ready position and bring the end of the barrel down on the padded bench top with a fair amount of force. The impact should pop the action loose, allowing you to resume the wiggle/pull technique to get the action out of the stock.

We also need to remove the floorplate assembly from the stock. The best way to do this is setting the stock in a cradle and using a wood dowel or something soft to tap the floorplate down and away from the stock.

■ HOW'S IT LOOK?

Now we can inspect the spot bedding job. When you look down at the recoil lug area where we applied the steel epoxy, you should see a perfect reverse image of the bottom the barreled action, free of voids, gaps and pinholes.

A common question novice gunsmiths ask at this phase of the build is how big of a void or air pocket is too big. At what point do we have to rip the bedding material out and redo it because of a void or air pocket?

When I was the Chief Gunsmith for a classified DoD facility and was building precision rifles for US Special Operations, if my gun or the gun of one of the gunsmiths working for

me had a void that was larger than a match head, we would redo it. We would re-bed the rifle not because the void would affect the accuracy of the gun, but because we wanted it to look professional and we only put out quality work.

Voids and pinholes look sloppy, and the bigger issue is that there may be bigger voids and pockets underneath the surface that you can't see. Fortunately, we only had

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▲ The H-S Precision stock is actually a tactical stock, but will make an excellent all season, all weather varmint rifle. It features a fully adjustable buttstock and cheekpiece.

a couple that needed to be re-bedded. Stuff happens sometimes.

If there is a small pinhole or air pocket, one thing I'll do is poke at it with a dental pick. Sometimes the tiny pinhole is really a larger air pocket, but you won't know until you poke at it.

Don't try filling the void or pinhole with bedding material. Doing a patch job like this will not work because applying bedding material to a void actually creates a raised area and defeats the purpose of spot bedding the gun. It's best to leave the small pinholes alone.

Here's the part where we remove the bedding tape and clean up excess bedding material from the receiver and floorplate area of

the stock. A Foredom tool works really well for this cleanup job.

I've found the structured tooth carbide bits from Kutzall do a very quick job of cutting through steel or aluminum epoxy during the cleanup process. They are available from Brownell's and come in cylindrical, straight and ball end. They're a little expensive, but indispensable.

MOVING ALONG

That's it as far as gunsmithing this rifle for now. I'm going to talk a little bit about some of the parts I'm going to install on this rifle, and remember, we are building two Remington M700 rifles in this column, one varmint and one tactical.

This is our varmint rifle and we



are installing two stocks, one wood and one fiberglass. I'm also going to show how to rebarrel the rifle. I just received the fiberglass stock, the trigger and the barrel for this gun.

■ STOCK TALK

The fiberglass stock I selected for this varmint rifle is the excellent H-S Precision stock with a woodland camo finish. The model is actually one of their tactical models because I wanted a stock that has a wide forearm to be able to accept the heavy barrel.

For versatility, I wanted a stock that had an adjustable buttstock to accommodate my clothing during both winter and warmer weather. I also required an adjustable cheekpiece since I plan to test many different brands and types of varmint

scopes, so scope heights will vary.

The H-S precision stock has an aluminum bedding block which can replace a traditional bedding job. I used to use many of the tactical models back when I was building precision rifles for the government, but we would always machine out the area around the recoil lug and use Devcon aluminum epoxy to bed the rifles. With this method we always had good results.

We are not going to be able to machine out the recoil lug area, but there is enough space around the lug that we can fill it in with the epoxy. I'll be talking more about the H-S stock as we go.

■ BARREL BRIEFING

I also managed to obtain a stainless Match barrel from Shilen

rifles. The Shilen name has been associated with accurate rifles since 1955, and I have used many of their barrels with great success.

For this project, I selected the stainless steel pre-threaded, short-chambered #8 taper Match Grade in 22-250 with an overall length (OAL) of 24 inches and a 1:7 twist.

I thought about going a little longer, maybe 26 inches OAL. Since I was going with a fast twist to launch the heavier bullets, a little more barrel length would take advantage of the longer length by using a little slower burning powder.

In the end, since this will be a "walking rifle", a 24-inch barrel length is about max. Shilen also makes a Select Match Grade for competition shooters, but for a varmint rifle, Match Grade will deliver all the accuracy we need.



The stock's adjustable buttstock and cheekpiece.

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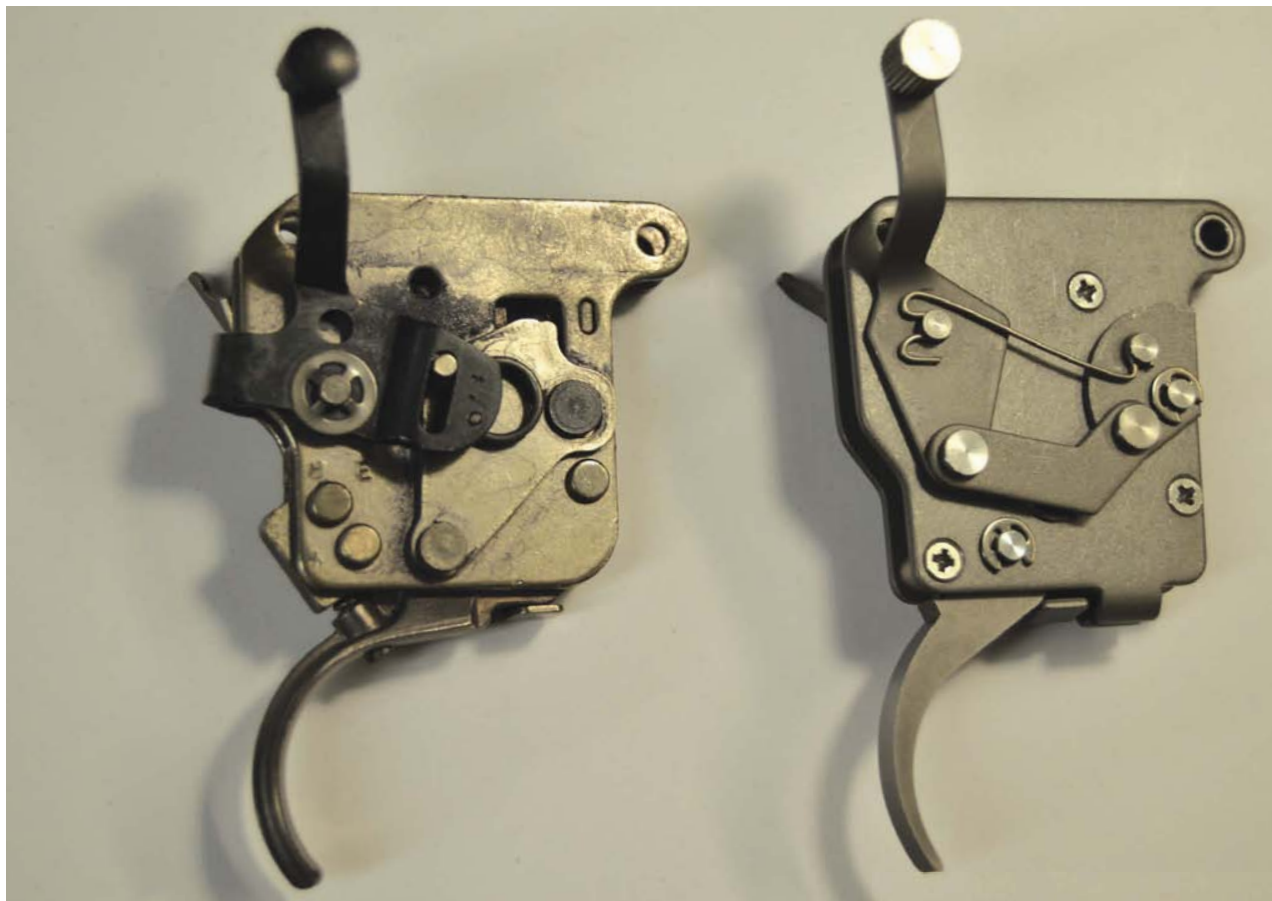
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▲ The two triggers. The factory Remington is on the left and the Jewell trigger is on the right. The factory trigger is good, but the Jewell trigger is the best on the market, bar none.

One of the most important barrel characteristics is its twist rate. As I stated, I went with the 1 in 7 (1:7), which means that the rifling in the barrel makes one complete revolution in seven inches of barrel length. This is a very fast twist for a 22-250 centerfire rifle, but it was necessary to stabilize the heavier (over 70 grains) bullets.

I intend to use the rifle as a component test rifle at some of the longer ranges, so the 1 in 7 will handle the heavier bullets for group shooting, but will also shoot the lighter varmint hunting type bullets in the 50-55-grain weights very well too.

As I mentioned, the Shilen barrel comes pre-threaded, and short chambered. That means the cham-

ber in the barrel is already machined, but it's left a little short. This allows the hobby gunsmith to install a superior Match Grade barrel on the rifle without a lathe. Lathes that are suitable for rebarreling a rifle can be quite expensive, so being able to install a Match Grade barrel on a rifle without one is a real advantage.

■ TOO COOL

This rifle will be getting a special treatment – we're literally sending the barrel to the deep freeze. Aptly named specialists 300 Below will cryogenically treat our new gun barrel to alter its molecular properties for even better accuracy potential by submerging the barrel in a -300 degrees Fahrenheit cryogenic bath.

The space allotted in this column



▲ The internal bedding block that is a hallmark of H-S Precision stocks. They provide excellent accuracy for the person that does not want to go to the expense and trouble of traditional glass bedding.

doesn't allow me to explain the procedure or its benefits and advantages to metallurgy, but the process has been performed on rifle barrels, as well as on components in the aerospace and manufacturing industries, for decades.

Our barrel will be off for treatment in about a week. Bottom line, there can be big benefits, with nothing detrimental to the barrel or the gun.

■ ODDS & ENDS

We will need specialized tooling to remove the old factory barrel, and I'll need a reamer and headspace gages in the correct caliber to install the new barrel, but once we have those items the rest is relatively easy.

I have reamers and headspace gages coming from Clymer Manufacturing, one of the best tooling and reamer companies in America. The reamer will deepen the chamber about a hundredth of an inch to minimum SAAMI specifications, and we'll verify the depth with headspace gages.

By being able to take the barrel off and set the headspace ourselves with a new Match Grade barrel, we can do operations to make the rifle more accurate that we would not be able to do with the factory barrel still installed, like lapping the bolt lugs to the receiver.

This will give us a big accuracy advantage, and I'll talk more about that procedure when we get to it.

Another item I have for this rifle is a Jewell trigger. Arnold Jewell makes the finest trigger on the market today, and I have used his triggers on just about every custom rifle I've ever built.

Jewell triggers come in two models, one for hunting, and the other for benchrest. The model I have for the Project rifle is the HVR, which is for Hunting and Varmint, with a pull weight adjustable down to just one pound.

The last item I received for the build isn't a gun part at all; it's a neck-sizing die from Redding Reloading. I'm going to use this die on the once-fired brass I created when I initially shot the rifle. Using a neck-

sizing die with once-fired brass is a great way to tighten up groups because the die only reforms the neck of the case, leaving the body of the case the exact size of the chamber. A very close fit between the chamber and brass is critical to accuracy in rifles.

The difference in accuracy from a rifle with a Match Grade barrel, a glass bedded stock, an excellent trigger and good quality hand-loaded ammunition versus a factory barrel, with factory ammunition is substantial.

From the factory, the rifle already shoots well, but we can make it much better, learn a few things and have some fun doing it. **GW**



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The author's buck and the Weatherby Mark V Terramark in .270 Winchester.



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Text & Photos by Jameson Parker

The Weatherby Terramark in .270
Winchester comes through in the
Texas Hill Country

Sonora, Texas is on the far western edge of the lovely rolling Hill Country. It's the town where Will "News" Carver of the infamous Butch Cassidy Wild Bunch gang was either—depending on which account you choose to believe—ambushed, or killed resisting arrest in a local bakery by the sheriff and his deputies. As it turned out, "News" was killed for a murder he never even committed, though I think we can safely assume he probably had other murders on his conscience. Today the town is the home of Sonora Trophy Hunts on the JL Bar Ranch.



▲ Like the deer at the JL Bar Ranch, the Terramark is the product of fine lineage.

■ FINE BREEDING

In the unlikely event you are unfamiliar with it, deer breeding is a big business in Texas and, like everything else in the Lone Star State, they don't do it by halves. The artificial insemination barn at Sonora Trophy Hunts is more high-tech, better organized, and cleaner than most hospitals. Mounts of famous breeder bucks hang just inside the front door, bucks that were so famous in their day that they had

names: Pancho; Lefty; Moose; Franco. The pens where the bucks and breeder does are kept are large, sprawling affairs surrounded by the kind of fencing you might expect to contain lions, though in this case it's to keep out the occasional mountain lion and the ubiquitous bobcats. Driving slowly by with ranch manager Scott Jacoby, he pointed out two-year-old bucks that were the offspring of famous sires, two-year-old bucks that in any other

part of the country would be shot immediately as the trophy of a lifetime, which of course leads to the question of age as a factor in trophy management.

The three factors that control antler size are genetics, nutrition, and age. Tamper with any one of those and antler size will be affected. At Sonora Trophy Hunts, five-and-a-half is the minimum age at which a buck may be shot, and bucks that reach the age of five or more learn a trick or two in the fine art of survival. Hunting there for the past two years I have seen bucks that might have made the trophy book in other states, but they were all under five. I have also caught glimpses of even larger bucks that might have been of shootable age, but they were canny enough and wary enough to always stay out of range, in the brush, partially hidden, drifting ghostlike and tantalizing through mesquite.

■ PREMATURE INVITATION

This year I went there to hunt with Adam Weatherby and his son, Conner, aged twelve. Adam is the new Executive Vice President and COO of Weatherby, the third generation of the Weatherby family to head the storied company. Conner, judging by his enthusiasm and intelligence, will be the fourth, and if that comes to pass the company will remain in good hands for many decades to come. He and his father are both impressive young men.

As it turned out, I arrived at the ranch before anyone else and Scott Jacoby graciously suggested I go out that evening. I demurred—after all, I was supposed to be hunting with Adam and Conner—but then I thought it might be a good chance



▲ Non-magnum calibers such as the .270 Winchester have six locking lugs.

to get some photographs, so what the heck. My guide from the year before, a young taxidermist named Heath Cary with an artistic streak he needs to nurture (he has shown me some of his drawings of deer, and the kid's got talent), happened to be there and he took me out to a blind not far from the cabin. Just for photographs, you understand; the rifle came along sort of as an afterthought, almost of its own volition.

The curiously counter-intuitive secret to successfully finding giant bucks is either to hunt something else and not even have a deer tag, or just to be completely unprepared and busy doing something with your hands that requires all your concentration. We had just gotten into the blind, with hours to go before we expected to see any deer,

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▲ Although the ranch lodge is still under construction, the adjacent skeet range has been completed and adorned with a striking mural.

and I was busy changing lenses on my camera, when Heath whispered, “There he is,” as casually as if he were referring to an expected guest. The moment I looked up my heart began to fibrillate. He was that kind of buck.

I was shooting a Weatherby Terramark in .270 Winchester, with a Leupold VX-III 4.5-14X40mm Long Range with very low Talley Mounts. One of the advantages of the famed Mark V Weatherby action, in addition to its extreme strength and safety, is that it has an exceptionally short 54-degree bolt action lift, making it possible to mount your scope very close to the bore axis. I had played with the rifle at the range near my home in California and it proved dazzlingly accurate, but unfortunately, it only works if you have the damn thing in your hands. Just now, it was propped up in the corner of the blind with three rounds in it, but nothing in the chamber.

■ TIME TESTED, RANGE CERTIFIED

To most, the Weatherby Mark V—as one of the storied rifles of the post-World War Two era—needs no introduction. Like the deer at the JL Bar Ranch, it is the product of fine breeding. The rifle bills itself as having “the world’s strongest action,” and it’s hard to imagine that not being a ridiculous understatement. With nine locking lugs (six for non-magnum calibers), a fully enclosed bolt sleeve, three separate rings of steel surrounding the cartridge casehead, and a fluted bolt body with three gas ports, the thing is so over-designed and over-manufactured that it’s sort of like buying a Hummer to drive to the grocery store. Remember, it was designed to compensate for the inevitable goof-ups of handloaders and wildcatters back in the early years following World War Two.

But beyond the safety factor, there are other advantages to the Mark V, notably that incredibly

short, 54-degree bolt lift that allows for both very quick action and a very low scope mount.

The stock is Weatherby’s traditional raised-comb Monte Carlo style, but made of a hand-laminated composite in High-Desert Camo, and the stainless metalwork is accented with a Flat Dark Earth Cerakote finish.

It comes with a fully-adjustable trigger that can be fine-tuned to meet your specific needs, and a direct striker intervention safety. The

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gun also comes with Weatherby's accuracy guarantee, which has now been up-graded in all Range Certified Models.

The term "Range Certified" means someone at Weatherby has a full-time job shooting every single rifle at the company indoor range and setting aside those that are exceptionally accurate. Weatherby defines "exceptional" accuracy as a three-shot group that measures less than 0.99 inches at one hundred yards. Those specific rifles are then tagged, signed by Ed Weatherby as meeting those criteria, and shipped out with an Oehler Research Ballistic Imaging System data sheet, providing specific load and ballistic data.

It's a great idea, but realistically, it only presents the purchaser with a template of what his rifle can do with that specific brand of ammunition and that specific bullet style at that specific bullet weight using that specific powder. And that's fine: that degree of accuracy is far greater than most people are capable of shooting, and it serves well to bolster confidence. But back to the blind, my camera, and an unexpectedly pleasant predicament.

■ IT'S ABOUT TIMING

The first order of business was to plop the camera back in its case, sans lens.

The next was to pick up the Terramark and jack a round into the chamber. (Note to Weatherby: how about developing a coating that would make cycling the action absolutely silent?) Fortunately, the buck was following some does that were ap-

parently the deer equivalent of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit models, because he never even looked our way. To quote Maurice Chevalier, "Thank Heaven for little girls." I know love has made me both deaf and blind upon occasion.

But then the buck stopped behind the metal H-brace at the corner of a barbwire fence. He was only about a hundred yards away (I had no intention of taking my eye away from the scope to laser the distance) but between the does passing back and forth in front of him, the metal upright, the metal crossbar, and the strands of barbwire, there was no shot.

Time passed. My blood pressure moved up past two digits and into three, with every sign of going

for four. I dimly remembered something about some other people—Adam who? Conner what?—but bucks like that give a man tunnel vision, and when a doe stepped out of the way, I threaded the needle between wires and metal posts.

■ A FINAL WORD

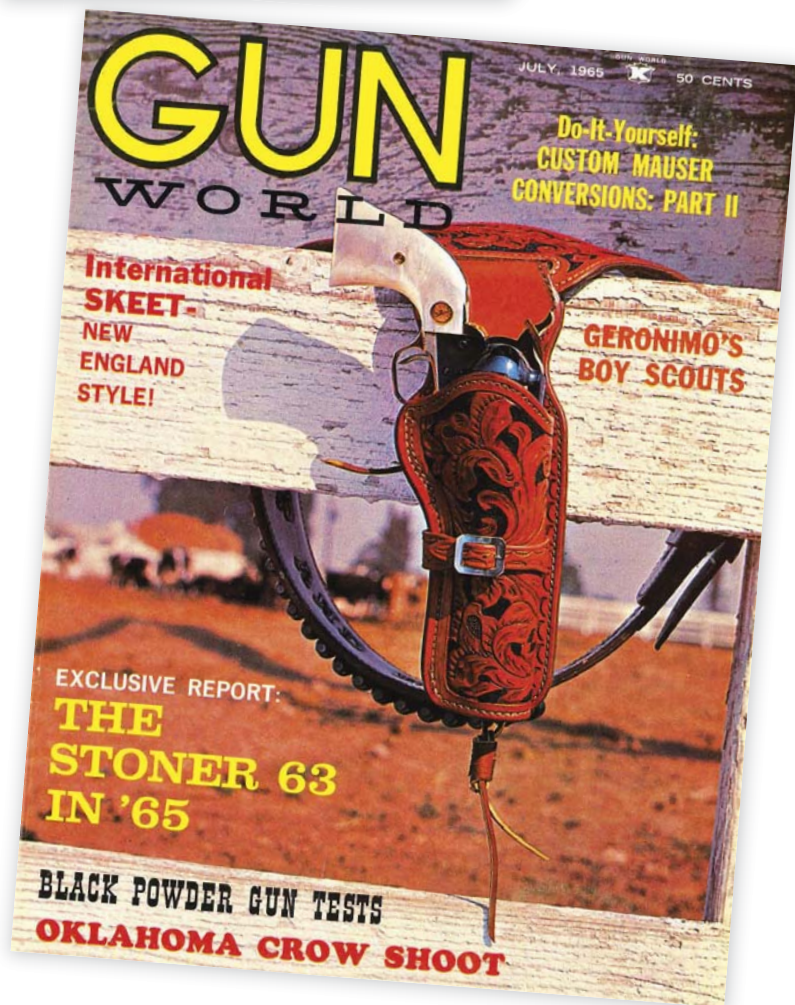
My test Terramark only arrived one week before I had to be in Texas, so I was very limited in the amount of time I had to play with it. Even so, with a Hornady 140-grain SST, I was able to do better than Weatherby with their test ammo.

Imagine what I may be able to do when I really have time to play with that gun. **GW**

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▲ In addition to the review of the Stoner 63 and several other guns, our July 1965 issue also featured stories on a Boy Scout camp firearms course (Camp Geronimo in Arizona) and a rundown of the 1965 NRA Meetings.

Stoner's **SYSTEM**

By Craig Hodgkins

In the spring of 1965, Gun World editor Jack Lewis traveled cross-country to test a firearm manufactured in his own back yard. The place: The Marine Corps Landing Force Development Center in Quantico, Virginia.

The test subject: the Stoner 63 “family of weapons.”

“The whole thing started several years ago,” wrote Lewis in Gun

World's July 1965 issue, “when the Corps was conducting its tests on the AR-15, since put into limited use by the Army and Air Force. Eugene Stoner, a World War II Marine corporal and the designer of the AR-15, was on hand and it was then that the ‘family of weapons’ was suggested to him.”

Stoner, of course, had been

chief engineer for ArmaLite—then based in Southern California—from 1954 through the early 1960s. He eventually moved on to Cadillac Gage in Costa Mesa, where he began work on his eponymous modular weapons system with six configurations, including carbine, rifle, light machine gun (30-round magazine or belt-fed via an ammo box), fixed machine gun, and medium machine gun.

Initially, eighty guns were shipped to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina, where a “control” platoon wielding the then-standard M-14 underwent full training alongside those equipped with “Stoners.”

Although the results were submitted to the Marine Corps Commandant prior to Lewis' visit, the editor wrote, “It isn't likely that the report is going to be bandied about among mere gun writers before he's had a chance to digest it.”

Still, Lewis was impressed when he received a full rundown on the Stoner's capabilities from a staffer, who “used nothing more than the nose of one of the .223 cartridges, pulling a pin here, inserting one there, and turning the action completely upside down to convert it to a machine gun from the rifle or carbine version.”

“The Stoner 63 constitutes a great advancement in weapons design,” Lewis went on to say. “Whether it becomes a facet of our military history is a matter that only time will answer.”

Time has told us that although some configurations of the Stoner received limited deployment in the late 1960s, only 4,000 total units were ever produced, and very few exist today. **GW**

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